Jesús Blasco's

Once Upon a Time

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Jesús Blasco

Once Upon a Time

19 July 1969 #23 - 6 Sept.1969 #30

The Sleeping Princess

1. Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there lived a King and Queen. They were very happy together and all the people in their Kingdom loved them dearly, for they were kind and just rulers. There was only one thing the King and Queen wished for to make their happiness complete. It was to have a child of their own. At last the beautiful Queen had a beautiful daughter.

2. "How wonderful it all is!" said the King. "At last we have a little Princess." There was much rejoicing and bells were rung throughout the land. It was a very happy day indeed when the Queen was able to carry her precious baby out into the sunshine on the Royal Palace steps and show the lovely child to the people of the land. They cheered and cheered.

3. Great preparations were made for the Royal baby's christening and there was to be a wonderful feast in the Royal Palace. "Let it be the finest and happiest day we have ever known in the Kingdom," said the King. All the gentlefolk in the land were invited as well as seven fairies. The King said that he would make them all godmothers of the new princess.

4. Suddenly the door flew open and another fairy burst in. "Why was I not invited to the feast?" she asked. The King had forgotten her, for she lived in a palace of snow far to the North.

5. However, the King and Queen both said they were very sorry that the Ice Fairy had been forgotten but they asked her to sit down and join in the feast. But the poor King had forgotten another thing as well. After the christening feast, when the baby's presents had been given, he planned to give each fairy a golden goblet.

6. "Oh dear, oh dear, I have only seven goblets," he sighed. "I hope the Ice Fairy will not notice it. There isn't time now to get another one made." The Ice Fairy DID notice it, however, but she said nothing. She sat at the table among the other gay fairies, sewing and planning and not joining in any of the fun.

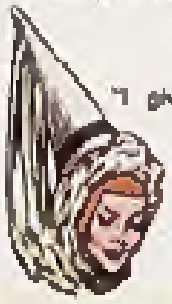
7. When the magnificent feast was over, the fairies rose from the table and went to bestow their gifts on the new baby. The little princess lay in her cradle, gurgling and cooing and very happy that such a fuss was being made of her. All the good fairies crowded round except one, who stood half-hidden by some curtains.

8. "All through the meal I have been watching the Ice Fairy," she said to herself. "I have a feeling that she is planning to do harm to the Royal Princess. I do not trust her, so I shall keep back and be the last to speak to the baby, which will give me the chance to undo any harmful thing which the wicked Ice Fairy might wish upon her."

The Sleeping Princess

1. Now came the exciting moment at the christening feast in the Royal Palace, when the fairies of the Kingdom bestowed their gifts upon the baby princess. The first gave her the gift of beauty, the second the gift of great cleverness.

2. The third gave her grace, the fourth wished that she would dance like a feather; the fifth that she would sing like a nightingale, the sixth that she would be able to play every musical instrument. The wicked Ice Fairy watched.



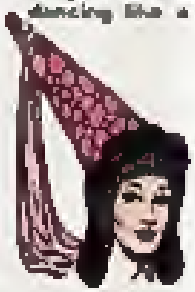
"I give her the gift of beauty."

"I give her the gift of cleverness."

"I give her the gift of grace."

"I give her the gift of dancing like a feather."

"I give her the gift of singing like a nightingale."



"I give her the gift of playing all musical instruments."

3. Then the Ice Fairy stepped forward, angry at not having been invited. Pointing a bony finger at the child, the Ice Fairy said that on the eighteenth birthday of the princess she would prick her finger on a spinning-wheel spindle and die.

4. Suddenly, from behind a curtain where she had been hiding, the youngest fairy stepped forward. "Fear not," she said to the King and Queen. "Your daughter shall not die. I have not the power to change the Ice Fairy's vow, but instead of dying the princess will fall into a deep sleep which will last for a hundred years, when a prince will wake her."

5. With an angry shout and in a swirl of rushing wind, the Ice Fairy vanished. As the young good fairy smilingly touched the baby with her magic wand and wished

6. When all the guests had gone, the Queen sat sadly by the cradle of the baby princess, hoping so much that nothing would happen to her. As for the King, he summoned the Royal Herald. "I have a special task for you," he said.

7. The Herald obeyed the command given to him by the King and, mounted upon his magnificent horse, he rode to the market-place. A few loud notes on his trumpet summoned all the people of the Kingdom. "Hear this—by special order of His Majesty the King!" he shouted loudly. "From this day, all the spinning wheels in the Kingdom are to be burnt, and no person will be allowed to keep one in his home, under threat of great punishment."

The Sleeping Princess

1. The wicked Ice Fairy had cast a magic spell upon the baby princess, saying that she would one day prick her finger on a spinning-wheel needle and fall asleep for a hundred years. But the King made up his mind that such an awful thing would never happen. "Send word to all citizens of my Kingdom," he ordered.

2. "Tell them that every spinning-wheel must be brought here and burnt at once, and that no new ones shall ever be made." What a sight it was, when the people crowded into the market place and cast their spinning-wheels upon a huge bonfire, which crackled and roared. The children thought it great fun.

3. There was now no spinning-wheel in all the Kingdom, and the King and Queen felt much relieved, and watched their lovely little daughter grow up.

4. When she was a charming little girl of eight, everybody was in love with her —even the animals of the Kingdom, who came to her to be fed and cuddled.

5. At seventeen, the princess could play all musical instruments, as one of the good fairies had promised. The King and Queen were so delighted.

6. When she was eighteen years old, the sweet princess was so happy and contented that she felt that life was wonderful. By now she was the fairest in all the land and she loved to be out in the sunshine on the castle lawn. Here, she walked with her faithful dog and watched people working and children playing.

7. On that day, however, she happened to take more notice than usual of a tall tower on the far side of the lawn. "Why is it that I have never been able to get to that tower?" she wondered to herself. "It seems strange, too, that nobody ever seems to go there and that there is never a sign of people living in it."

8. Feeling curious, she made up her mind to go and see what went on inside that strange tower. With a quick glance round to make sure that nobody was staring at her, she hurried across the lawn, through a twisting pathway to a door. "And there's a key in the door," she thought. "Dare I take a peep inside?"

9. Her hand trembled a little as she tried the key. It turned quite easily and she peeped into the tower. "What a strange place—it's so musty and damp," she said. "But there must be somebody who uses it, or else there would not be a key to the door." A little nervous, but even more curious, she went in.

The Sleeping Princess

1. With her heart beating a little faster, the young princess started to climb the steps of the winding stairs inside the tower. "It's so cold and damp and dark," she said to herself, with a shiver. "But I am so curious to find out if anyone lives here, that I feel I must go on and see for myself."

2. When she reached the top of the steps, she found herself facing a great door made of solid oak. In the lock was a large key. The princess looked at it. She put out her hand and then drew it back. "Shall I? Shall I turn the key?" she wondered. "I have a strange feeling that I am meant to open the door."

3. She took a deep breath, plucked up her courage and turned the key. Slowly the heavy door opened and, full of curiosity, she peeped inside the room beyond. In it was a strange woman, sitting all alone, working at a sort of spinning-wheel machine. "What are you doing?" asked the princess. "What are you making?"

4. "Come in, my dear," said the woman (but as you will have already guessed, she was really the wicked Ice Fairy). "It's so seldom that I get a pretty visitor like yourself. What you see me doing is something called spinning. I make long strands of fine silk, which can then be used to make lovely dresses."

5. "Oh, how very clever," said the princess. "I never knew that such a thing could be made at home. I think that my mother, the Queen, always goes to another country to buy the silks and cottons she needs for making dresses." The princess did not know that spinning-wheels were not allowed in the Kingdom on the special orders of the King himself.

6. "Would you like some silk that I have just spun? It's such a pretty colour, my dear," said the Ice Fairy, holding out the spindle of silk. She smiled sweetly, but the black cat on her shoulder showed the true feelings of her mistress by giving a little snarl. The princess was delighted. "Thank you very much," she said. "You are so very sweet and kind."

7. Holding the spindle of silk, the princess hurried to the stairs, and lightly tripped down them, feeling very happy. "There's just one thing, my dear," the Ice Fairy called out from the top of the stairs. "Please do not tell anyone that I have given you some of my silk. Let us keep it a secret between ourselves." "Of course," said the princess. "I will not say a word about it."

8. As she left the door of the tall tower and stepped out into the sunshine, she saw people scurrying about all over the place. One of them was her father, the King. "We have been looking everywhere for you, my dear," he said. "We were worried about you." "There is no need to worry any more, father," the princess smiled, keeping the spindle well hidden.

The Sleeping Princess

1 When she slipped quietly away to her bedroom in the Royal Palace, the princess took a closer second look at the gift which the strange old lady in the tower had given her. "She called this a spindle, but I have never seen one before," she said.

2 The princess did not know, of course, that all spinning-wheels were banned in the kingdom because the wicked Ice Fairy had wished an evil spell that one day she would prick her finger on a spindle and fall asleep. "Oo——my finger!" she suddenly gasped.

3 And so it came to pass that the curse of the wicked Ice Fairy came true. The princess felt the sharp point of the spindle stick in her finger, and then she began to lose her balance, feeling quite giddy. "Oh dear! What is happening to me?" she said, backing against the bed as she tried to blink her eyes open. "The room seems to have gone dark and I feel sleepy all of a sudden."

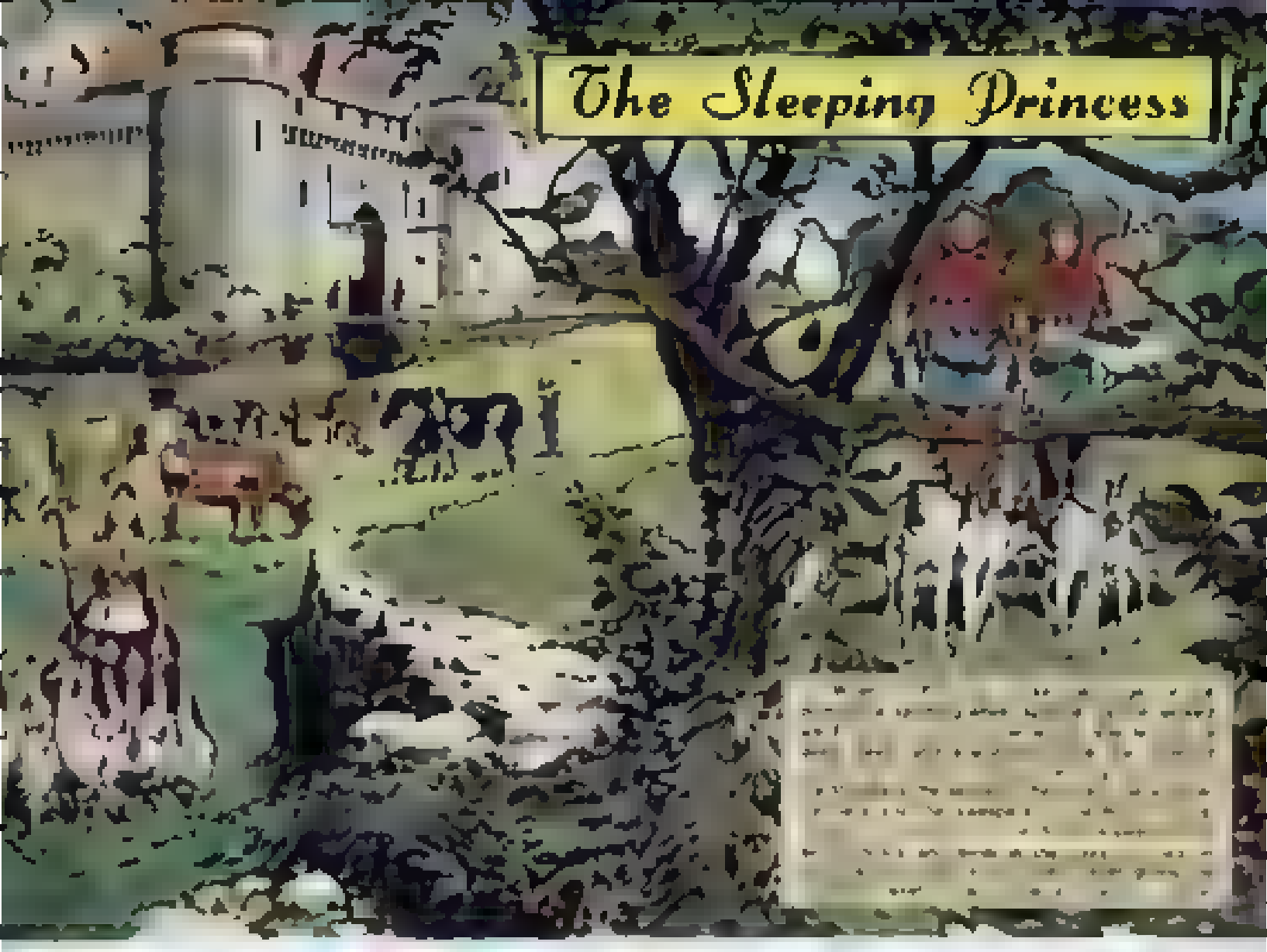
4 The dogs barked and there was a clatter as a crowd of people rushed into the room. But before they could reach the princess she fell on the soft bed and went to sleep.

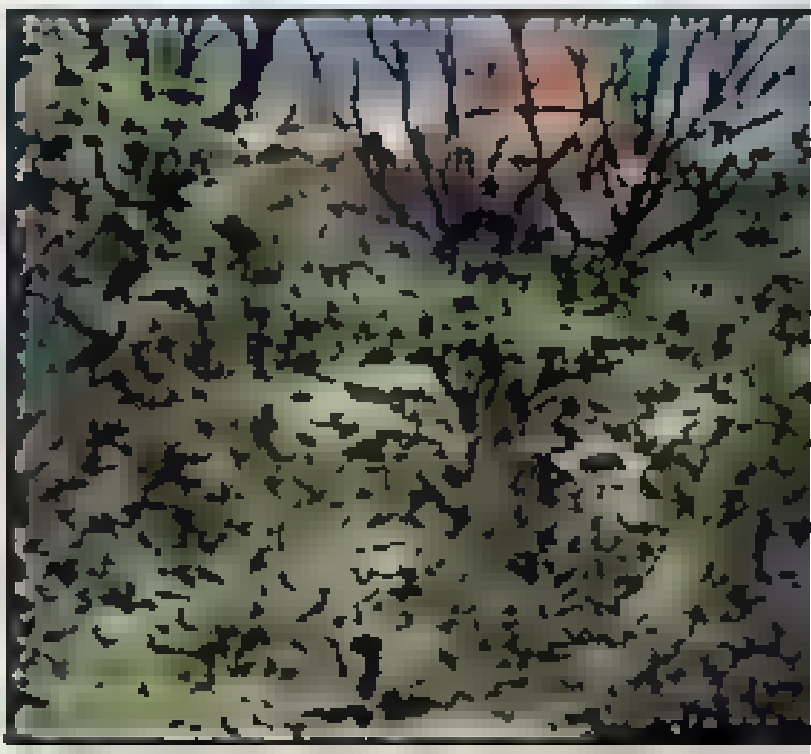
5 Several tried to get to her, but each of them stopped in his tracks. A pageant in the room began to yawn, even the dogs and their feet seemed as though glued to the floor.

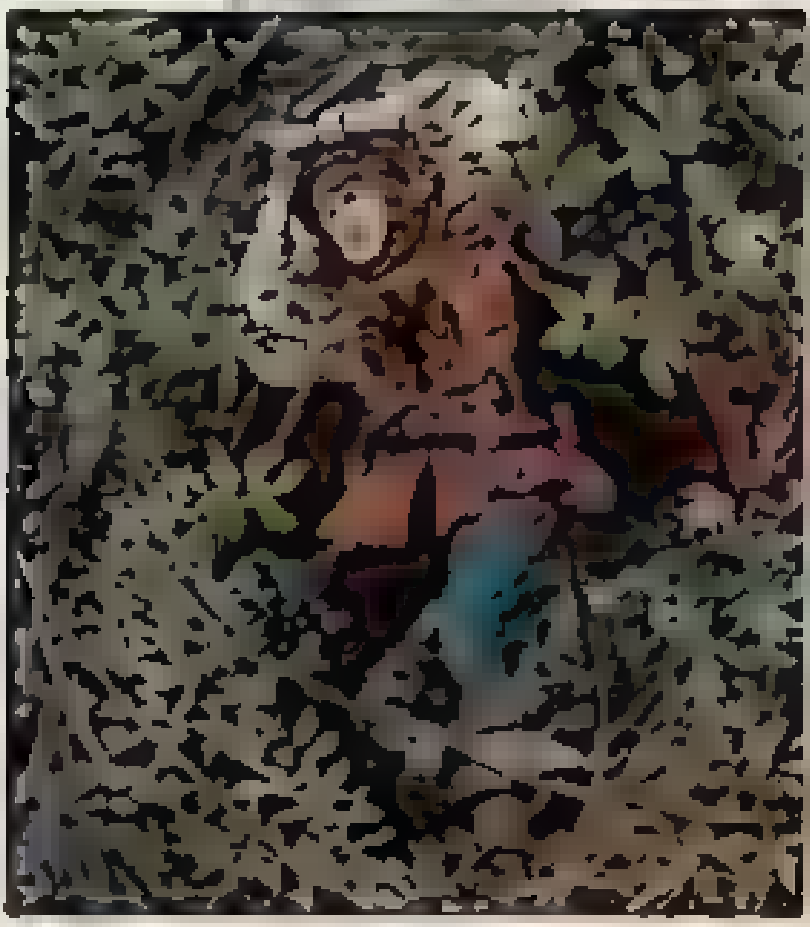
7 It was the same all over the Palace, even in the kitchens, where the Royal cooks and serving-maids were on the point of preparing lunch. They halted in what they were doing and fell asleep.

8 Even the young minstrel boy, who played sweet and soothing music, had never lulled anyone off to sleep as quickly as this. The wicked magic was working and the whole Palace became quiet.

The Sleeping Princess







The Sleeping Princess

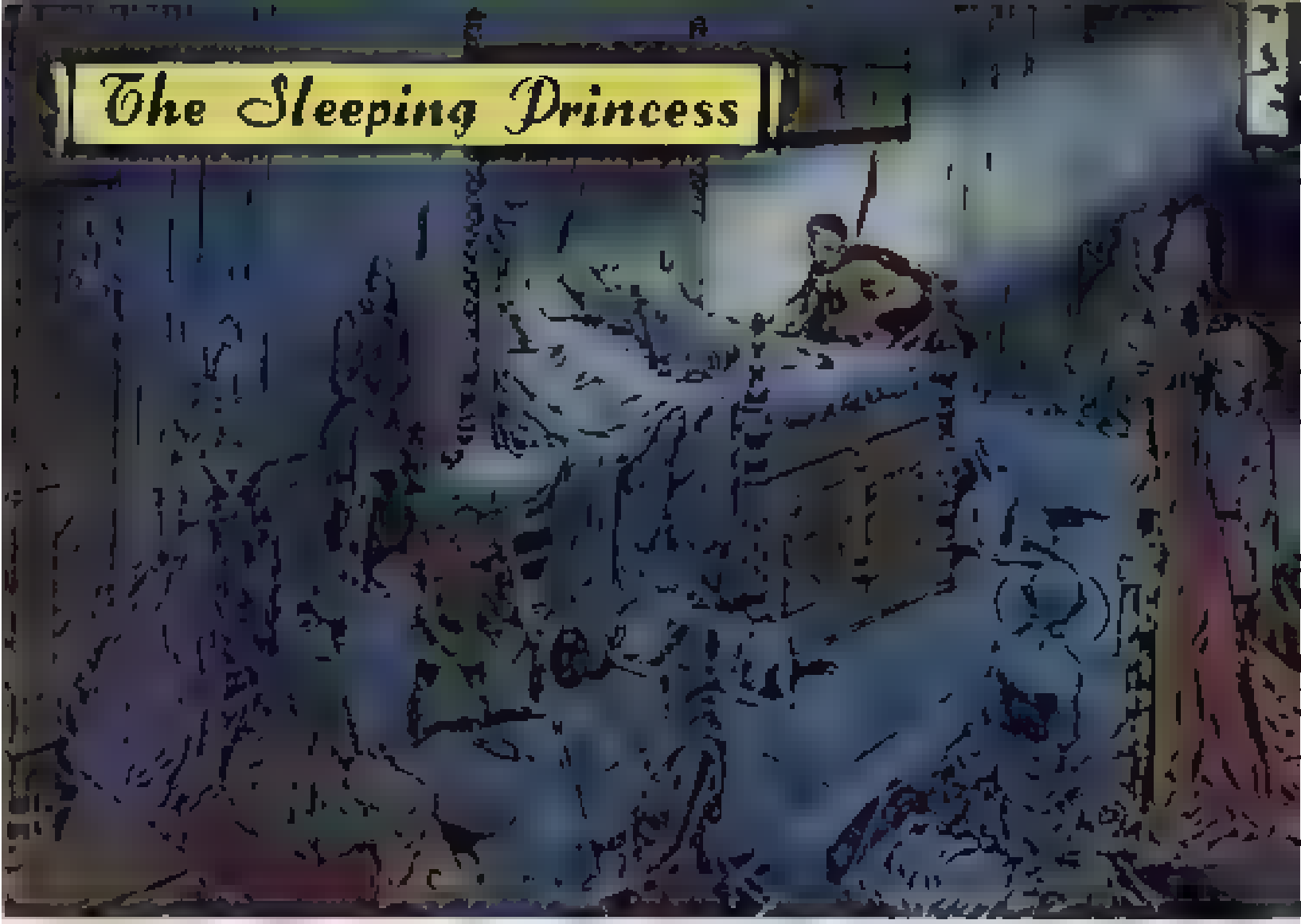
4 An even more amazing sight [illegible] through the drawbridge gate into the courtyard of the Sleeping Castle. A palace knight, about to mount his horse, when some one took him, was bewitched with one foot in the stirrup of his prancing horse. "Poor fellow," said the Prince. "He must have been on the point of going on a long trip with his lady, for there she sits upon her pale horse, with a sleeping groom holding his reins."

5 [illegible] went on towards a flight of steps leading into the castle. And there at the bottom of the steps he saw a lute-player, with his fingers still on the strings of his instrument, and his prancing mount still brightly caparisoned, as he sang to a sleeping knight and two [illegible]

6 "The wicked witch was right," said the Prince as he looked around inside. "A sleeping spell has been cast over the whole place." His footsteps made a clatter as he walked across the floor of the Great Hall of the castle—but no sound came from the knights and ladies seated at a feast, with sleeping servants, caught in the act of serving food.

"But where shall I find the Sleeping Princess?" wondered the Prince. He noticed a spiral staircase and started to walk up it, with his heart beating faster and faster.

The Sleeping Princess

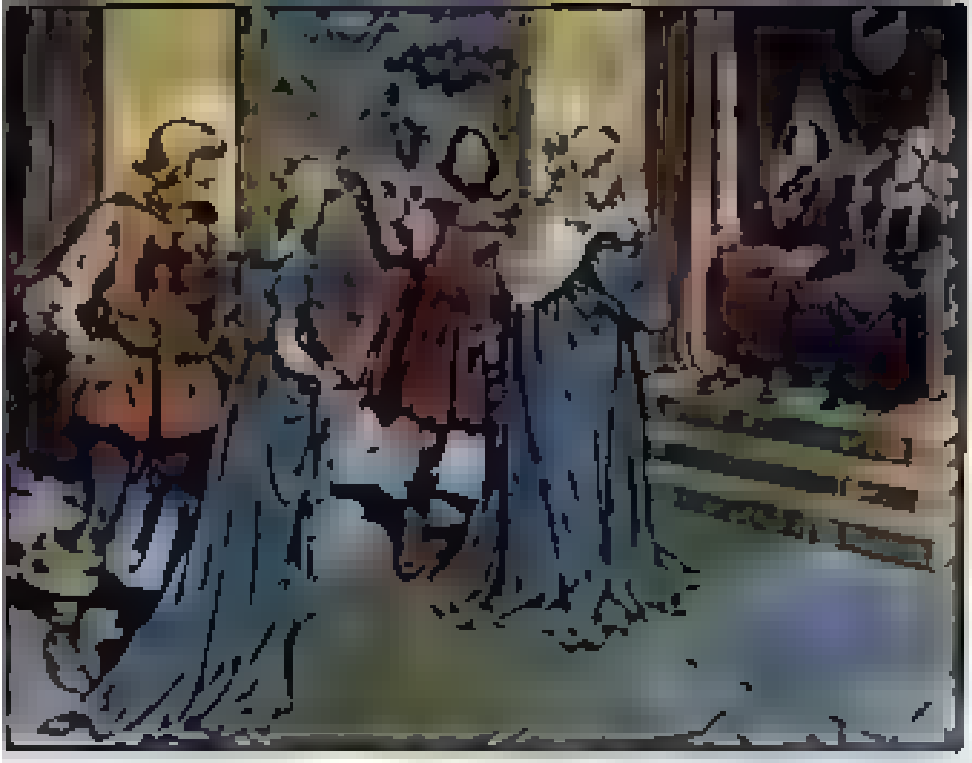


1. [illegible] he hurried up the [illegible] of the sleeping palace. He entered a large bedroom, and there he saw [illegible] who did not move [illegible] hundred years ago.

2. A shaft of [illegible] through a window and on the golden light of [illegible] the Prince saw the Sleeping Princess. [illegible] and peaceful she looked. "Wonderful," thought the Prince. "She has [illegible]

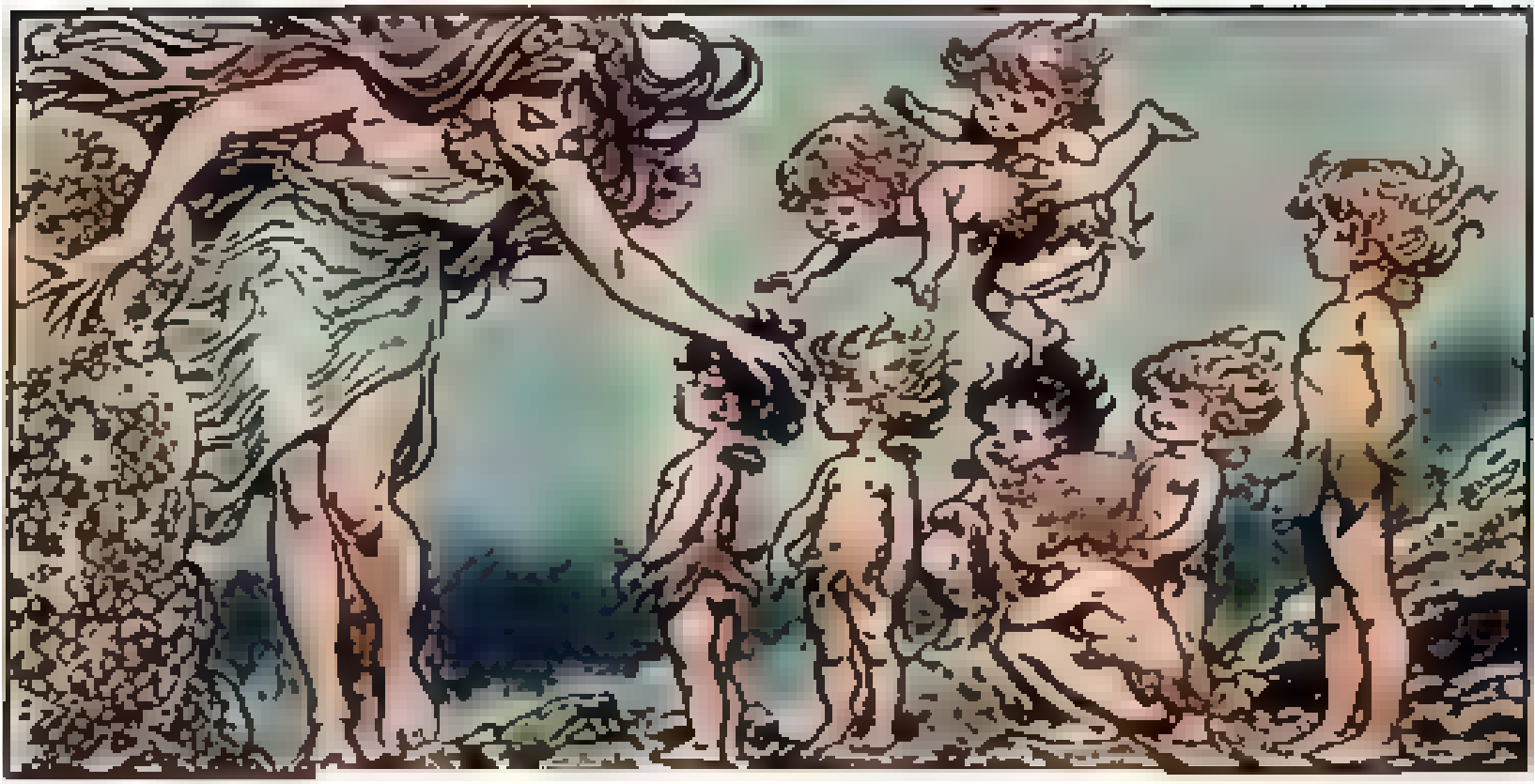
3. The [illegible] told him that she was under a wicked magic spell and yet could be awakened by a kiss from the Prince. And who could resist giving such a lovely lady a kiss. He bent over and kissed her on the lips.

4. At once everything changed. The big room became warmer and bright. The dust and cobwebs disappeared and as the Prince stepped back the Sleeping Princess moved and sat up. "What has happened?" she asked. "I feel as if I have had the longest sleep in my whole life." "You have good luck," said the Prince. "You have been asleep for exactly [illegible] hundred years." One by one, all the palace servants and even the dogs woke up



Jesús Blasco

The Water Babies



Once Upon a Time

31 Jan. 1970 #51 - 18 Apr. 1970 #62

The Water Babies

Once upon a time many years ago there was a tiny chimney sweep named Tom. In the town where Tom lived there were plenty of chimneys to be swept. It was Tom's job to go climbing up inside them to loosen the soot and sweep it down for his grumpy master Mr Grimes to collect.

1. [illegible] his sheep and [illegible] getting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a large [illegible]

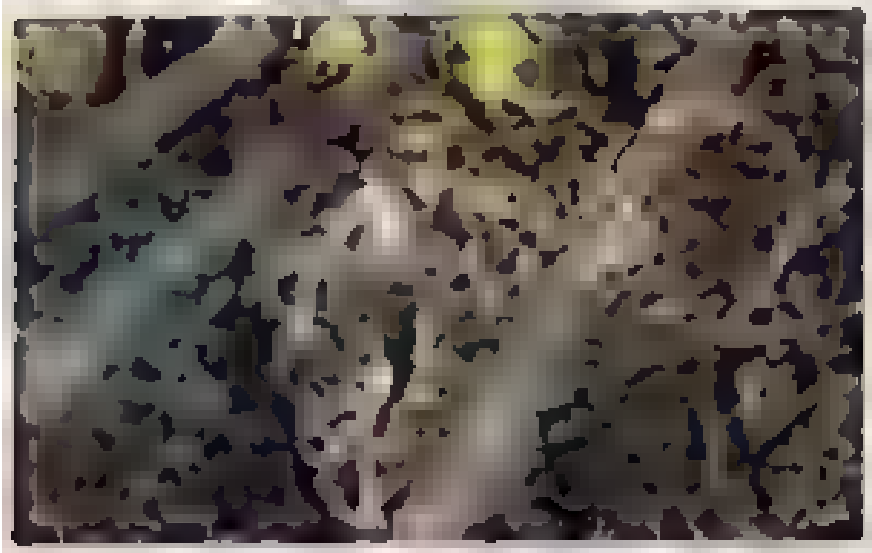
2. Tom had never been [illegible] stared and stared at the things around him. He longed to [illegible] and [illegible] grumbled [illegible] pipe [illegible] and [illegible] She was a pretty woman with dark hair.

3. [illegible] you get up [illegible] and ride [illegible] on the donkey. The [illegible] woman [illegible] "No thank you," she answered [illegible] "Please yourself," grumbled Grimes. [illegible] with Tom and talking to him about the sea, which Tom had never seen.

4. At last they came to a stream and Grimes stopped. Then [illegible] head in the stream and [illegible] dirty he made. Tom's eyes opened wide when he saw Mr Grimes actually washing himself. "Why, master, I never saw you do that before," he said. [illegible] might [illegible] to make [illegible]

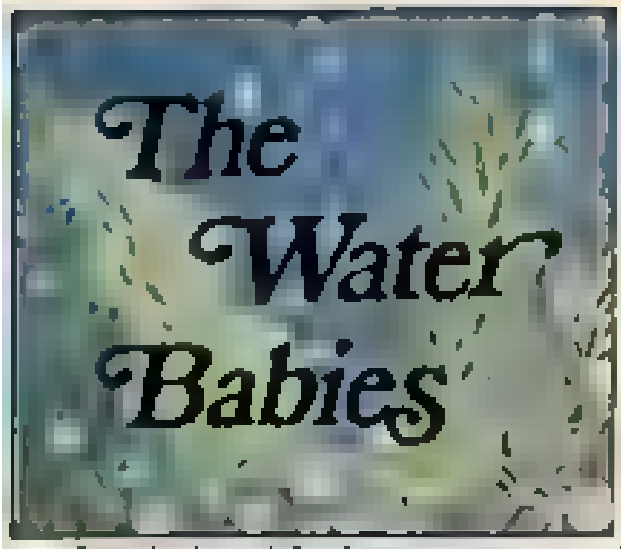
5. "Get along with you," said a [illegible] "What do you want [illegible] washing [illegible]" He made a grab at Tom to beat him but the gypsy woman stopped him. "Are you not ashamed of yourself, Thomas Grimes?" she asked and a surprised Grimes [illegible] that she knew his name. "Stop that at once. I have one more thing [illegible] to you. Those that wish to be clean, clean they will be."

The Water Babies



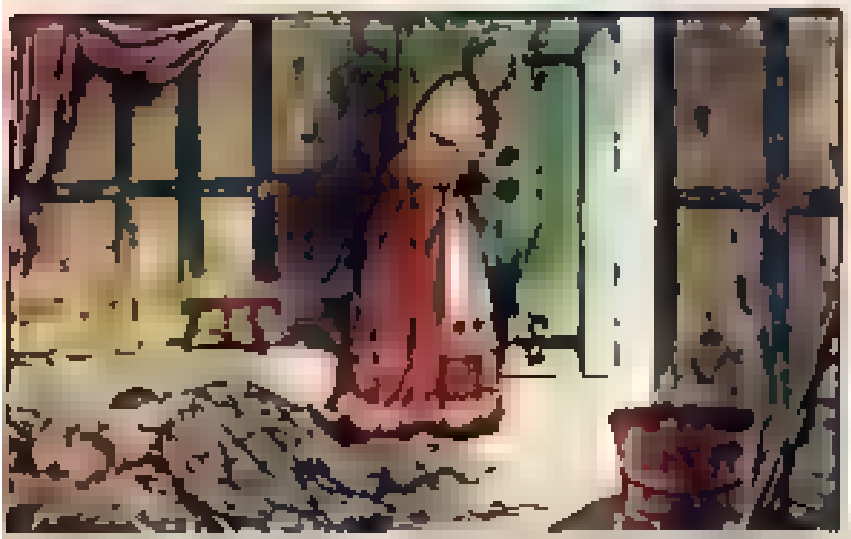
that he would find

The Water Babies



Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, runs away when people chase him out of Harthover house where he accidentally climbs down the wrong chimney into the bedroom of a pretty girl named Ellie. Tired out and not feeling very well, Tom passes by an old lady's cottage by a stream.

1 The old lady bobbed off and brought Tom a cup of tea and a slice of bread. "Bless you, pretty lad! you're a real sick child," she said. Tom drank the milk at sight of it. "In the [illegible]," said the old lady. "[illegible] Tom. "Is Sunday? I hear the church bells ringing in my head." "No, it isn't Sunday," said the old lady sadly. "Come with me." Tom tried to get up, but was so tired and giddy that she had to help him and lead him upstairs to an overhead

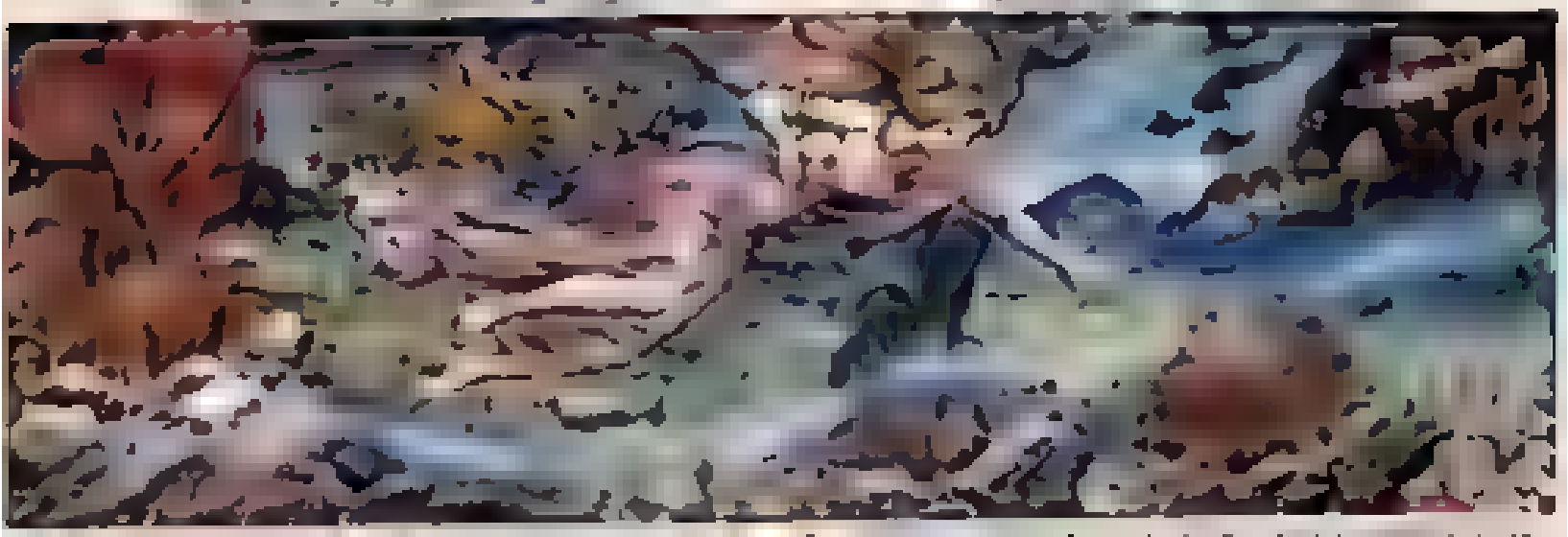


2 "There, she said, "I'm often as some soft sweet hay, but an old dog's bed." Tom and said she would come to him in an hour's time. "I have a school for little children here," she explained, "but I have an [illegible] more lesson and when that is over I will come and see if you are better." She up loud and stepping Tom fell on only a deep and sweet

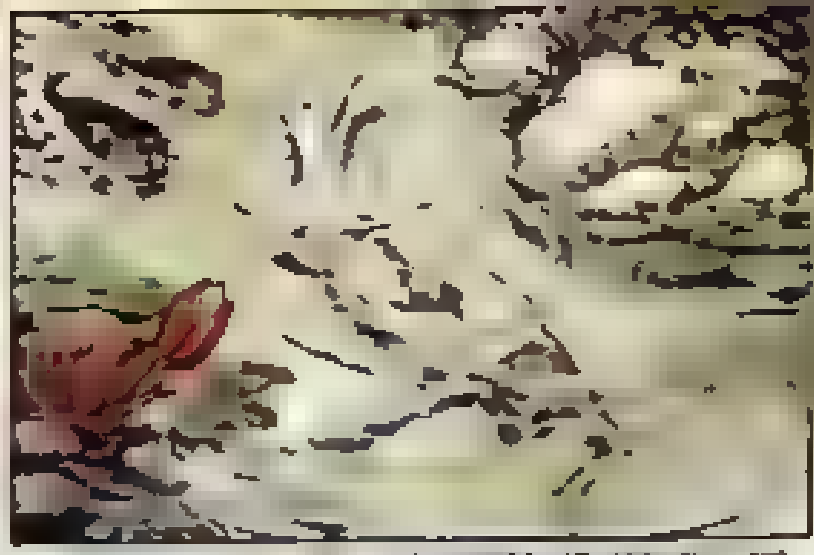
3 [illegible] all over that he longed to get into the stream to cool himself. He did all half asleep and dreamt that he was in the beautiful girl in the bedroom in the big house calling to him. "Oh, you are so dirty. Go and be washed and get clean."

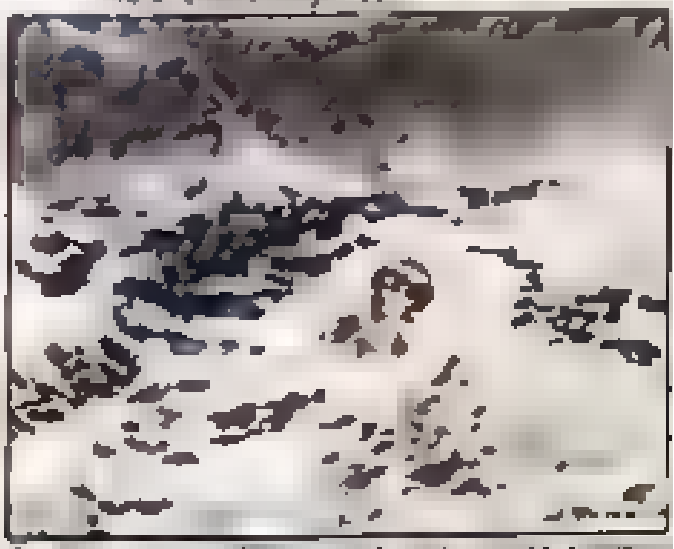
4 Troop were noises in his head and he felt as though it were ringing so loudly that he was sure it must be Sunday, in spite of what the old lady had said. Tom thought that he would [illegible] to go to church, but [illegible] he must go to the river and wash the soot and dirt off himself. Poor Tom was in such a fever that he did not know what he was doing.

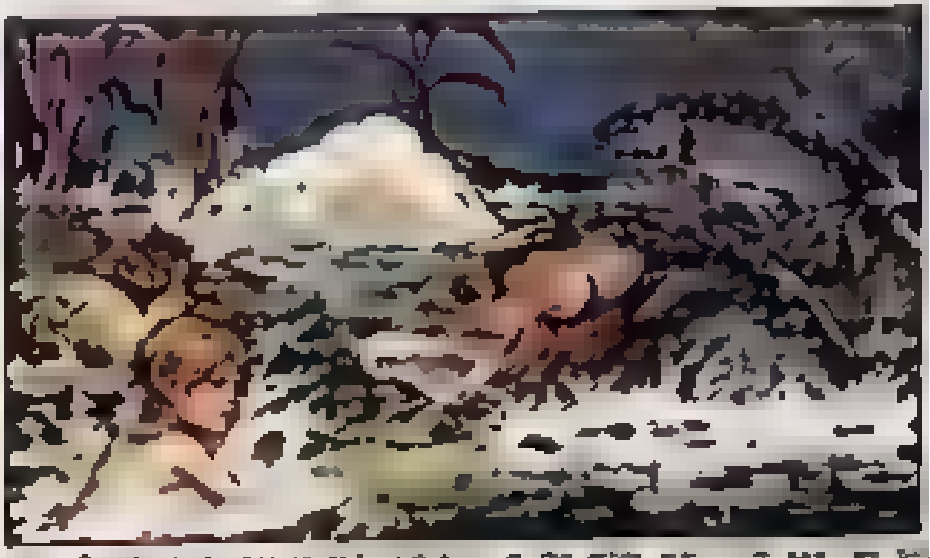
5 He went on to the bank of the stream, lay down on the grass and [illegible] Every [illegible] and clean and the fish darted about in fright at the sight of the black boy. Tom dipped his hand in and found it [illegible] so cool. "It's like a fish," and green in the water, "should be clean," he told himself. "If only I can get into the water I know that I would be happy."



The Water Babies



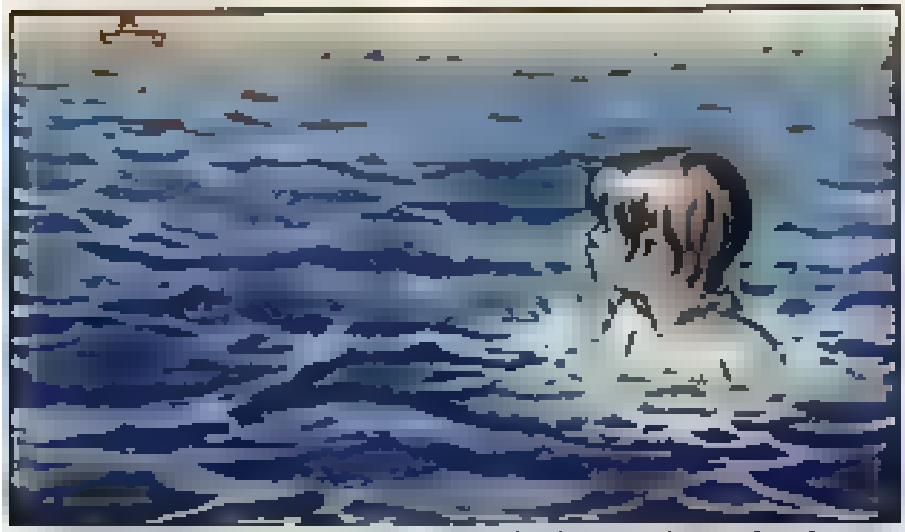




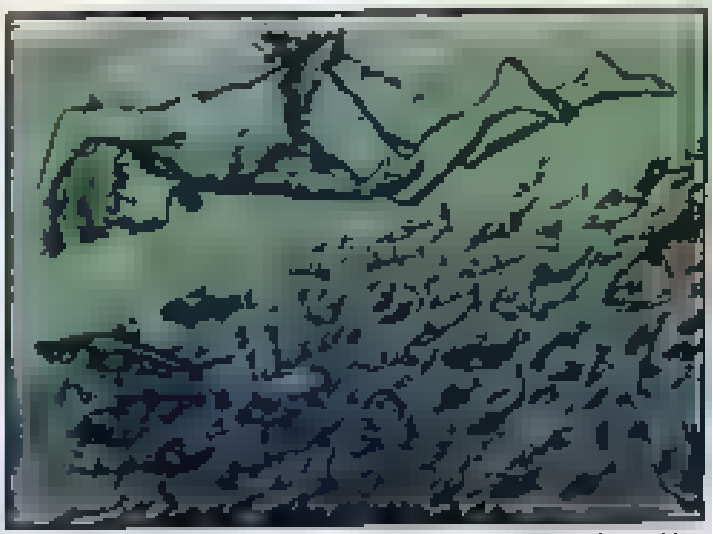
The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, finds himself turned into a water baby. Because he is naughty the other water babies are not allowed to play with him. Tom tries to find them and swims down a river to the sea.

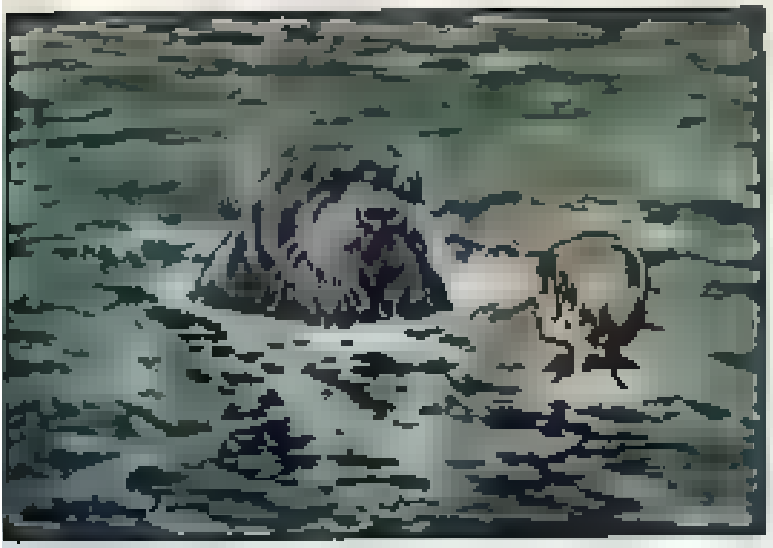
1 Day after day Tom travelled on. He swam near ships and saw sailors on the decks, so he ducked under again for he was terribly afraid of being caught by the men and turned into a chimney-sweep once more. What Tom did not know was that the water fairies were always near him, shutting the sailors' eyes so that they did not see him. Poor little fellow, it was a weary journey for him. More than once he longed to be back in the upper parts of the stream, playing with the trout, but he did not stop.



2 Tom had always been a brave little lad, who never knew when to give beaten. On and on he went, until he saw, a long way off, a red buoy. Tom had never been to sea before and knew nothing about it. He only knew that the water had turned salty all round him. A change came over him. He felt strong and light. The red buoy was in sight, dancing in the open sea, and to the buoy he was determined to go as fast as he could.

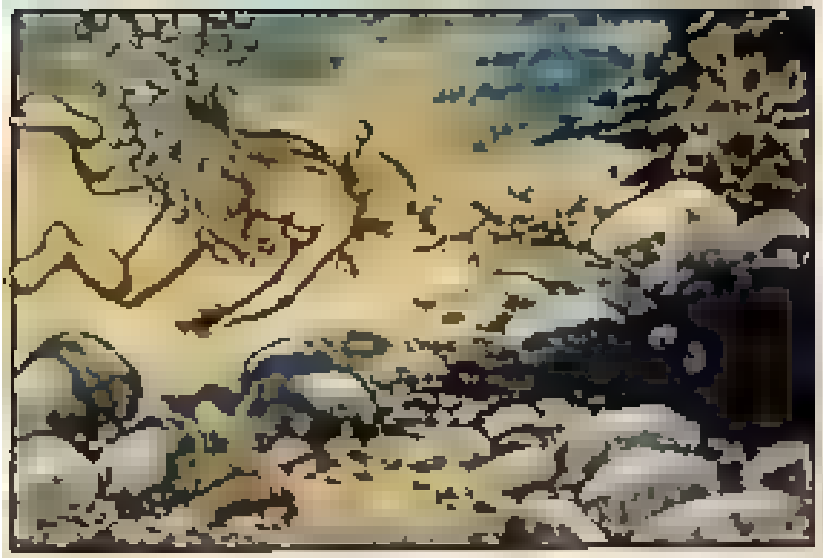


3 Tom did not care that the tide was against him. He passed great shoals of fish called bass and mullet leaping and rushing after the shrimps, but he took no notice of them and they took no notice of him, for they were so busy chasing after their food. Most living things in the sea feed on other living things, you know.

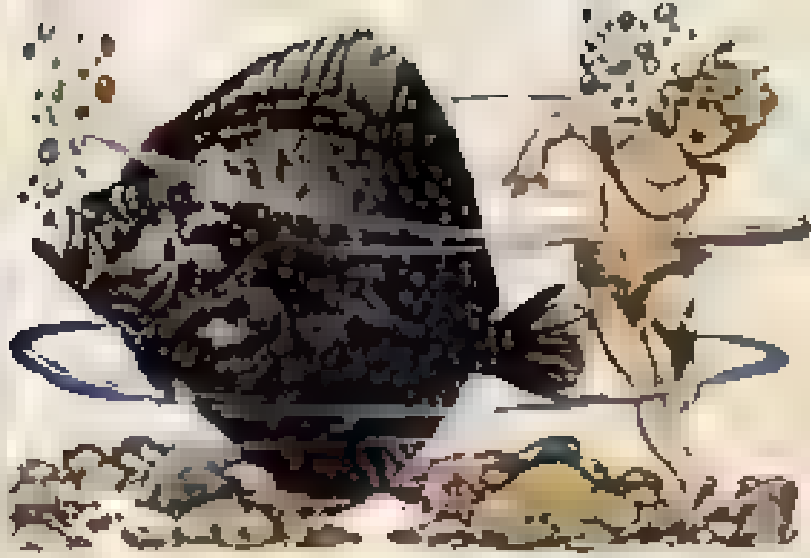


4 Once he came face to face with a great black shining seal. "How do you do, sir," said Tom. "What a beautiful place the sea is." The old seal looked at him with his soft, sleepy eyes. "Good day to you, my little man," he said. "Are you looking for your brothers and sisters? I passed them all at play outside." "Did you?" said Tom.

5 He thanked the seal very much. "Now I shall have someone to play with at last," said Tom. He swam to the buoy and got up on it, quite out of breath. He sat and looked around for water babies, but there were none to be seen. Tom stared and stared all round him. He saw seagulls hovering over him like huge white dragonflies. If only he could have seen a water baby, he would have been very, very happy.



6 After a while he jumped off the buoy and swam around in search of the water babies, but all in vain. Sometimes he thought he heard them laughing, but it was only the laughter of the rippling sea. Then sometimes he thought he saw them on the bottom, but it was only white and pink sea shells. Once he was sure he had found one for he saw two bright eyes peeping at him out of the sand.

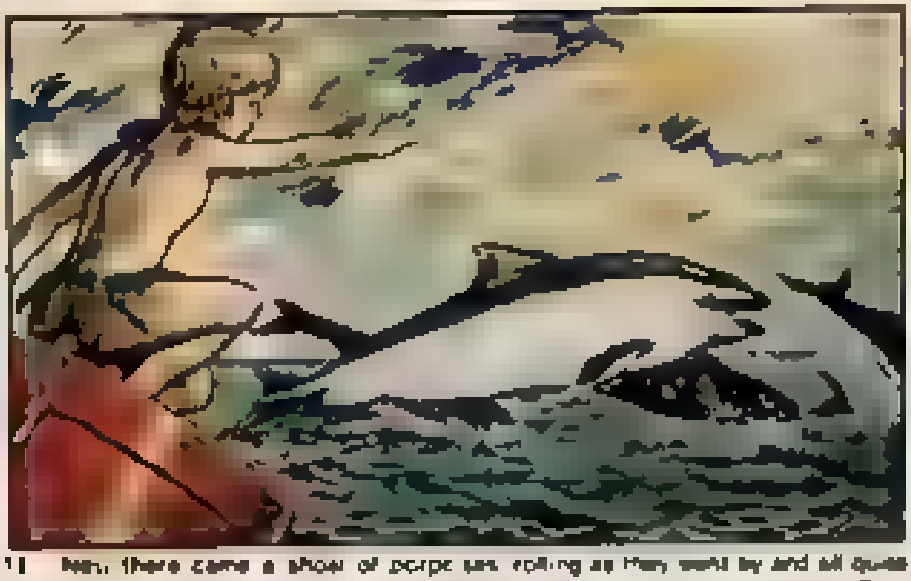


7 Tom began to scrape away the sand, saying, "Don't fret, do want someone to play with so much." Out jumped a great flatfish and it flopped away along the bottom, almost knocking poor Tom over. "How dare you disturb me, you horrid boy?" said the fish. "I lie in the sand with only my eyes showing so that others will not see me, and now you have spoilt my rest. Please go away!"

8 Poor Tom climbed back on the buoy and cried salt tears from sheer disappointment because he had found no water babies to play with. He sat upon the buoy for many long days, looking out to sea and wondering when the other water babies would come, and yet they never came. It seemed hard to him to have come all this way and faced so many dangers—and yet to find no other water babies.

9 He began to see all the strange things which come in from the outside sea if they had eyes to see. Some said "Yes," and some said nothing at all. He asked the bass and mullet, but they were greedy fish and so intent on catching shrimps to eat that they did not care to answer him a word. Tom saw all these sea creatures passing by but no water babies. He grew sadder and sadder.

10 Then one day came a great lazy sunfish and when Tom questioned him he grumbled in a squeaky voice, "Water babies? I'm sure I don't know. I've lost my own way. Don't talk to me." And he swam away.



11 Then there came a shoal of porpoises rolling as they went by and all quite smooth and shiny because the water always polish them every morning. Tom took courage to speak to them, but all they answered was, "Hush, hush, hush," as they swished through the water. Poor Tom! He could not find a water baby

The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, becomes a water baby. He turns out to be a fairy and has some other water babies to play with and he does not feel shy. They have been sent by their Fairy Queen to keep out of sight until Tom has learned not to be naughty.

[illegible] he had never seen one before and thought it a most curious creature. He asked him about the water babies. Tom: "Oh, I've [illegible] heard them. I have seen them, then, but don't have much of them. They are rather mischievous. The children, whenever they are playing in and helping fish and [illegible] get into trouble. I have enough to take care of myself. The children were [illegible] but [illegible] many hours a day.

2. [illegible] the world happened [illegible] and [illegible] adventure. You will not have forgotten the little girl in the bedroom of the big house, who was the cause of [illegible] being forced to run away and become a water baby. Her name was [illegible]. One day she came to the house with a very wise old professor, who [illegible] and taught them a [illegible] and [illegible].

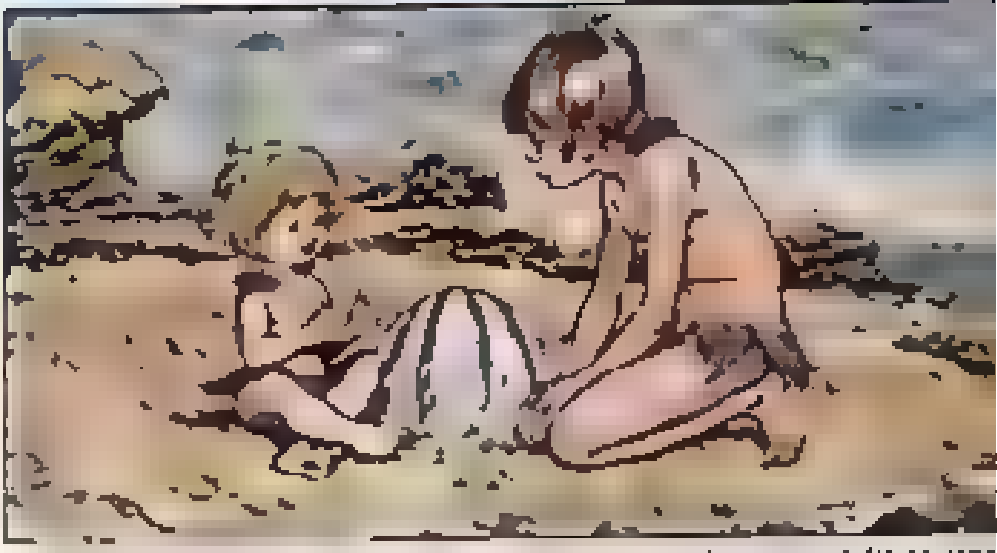
3. "I like playing with children best," said [illegible], who was a little boy. "The [illegible] babies are small, so why are they called water babies?" "Because there are," replied the professor, quite sharp. "[illegible] and [illegible] some [illegible] with [illegible] and caught poor Tom.

4. He stood out the hot salt Tom shade of [illegible]. Dear me, gasped the professor as he [illegible] from [illegible] of the [illegible] hands. It actually has eyes, too! It must be a cephalopod. In case you do not know, a cephalopod is the name given to such things as oysters, snails and whelks. Tom did not like to be called names like that. He [illegible] not. He [illegible] as much as he could.

5. [illegible] a water baby. [illegible] Water babies [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] he [illegible] that the water nymphs put clothes on him and make a fairy of the chimney sweep of him again. When he [illegible] [illegible] he was more than he could bear. [illegible] right hand [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible].

The Water Babies

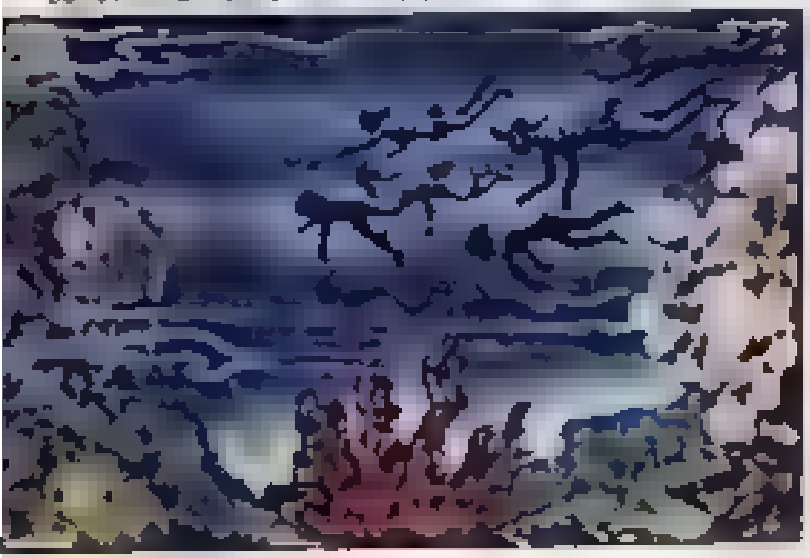
Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, becomes a water baby. He searches the sea for other water babies, who have been told by their fairy queen to keep out of sight until Tom leaves his rather naughty ways. When Tom is hard to a dolphin and hunger it to escape from a trap he meets a water baby.



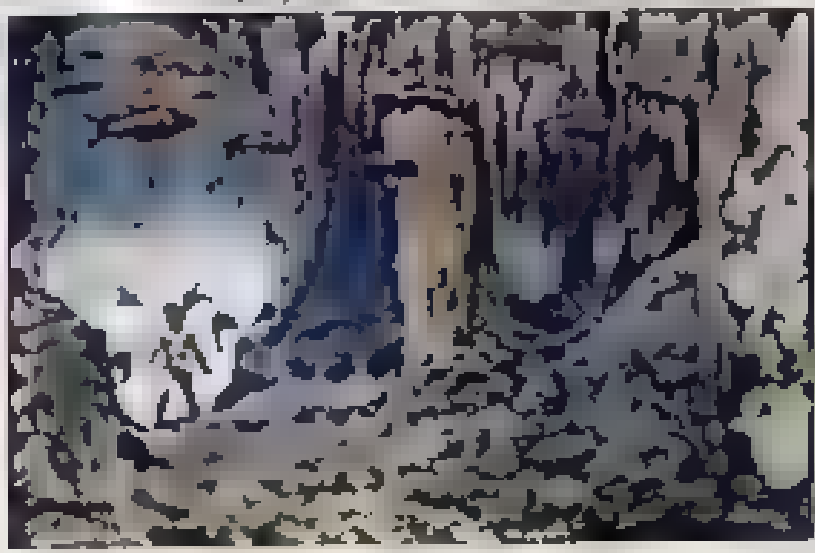
1 At last Tom had found a water baby. He had been searching for one for so long and had been so lonely. [illegible] rock. After [illegible] found up and [illegible] rock. A [illegible] in a storm and [illegible] plant some more on it and [illegible] the gateway of the rock on the sea shore.

2 When this had been done, the fun began. [illegible] Tom heard all the other water babies coming, singing and shouting and shouting and jumping. When they reached the shore they became very busy. Now then, said one [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] the sand and nobody [illegible] where [illegible] water. [illegible] the beaches you know.

3 Tom [illegible] and waited for them. [illegible] Tom [illegible] water baby [illegible] and [illegible] and danced [illegible] on the sand. There was no [illegible] than [illegible] shouting and [illegible] the house [illegible] Tom [illegible]

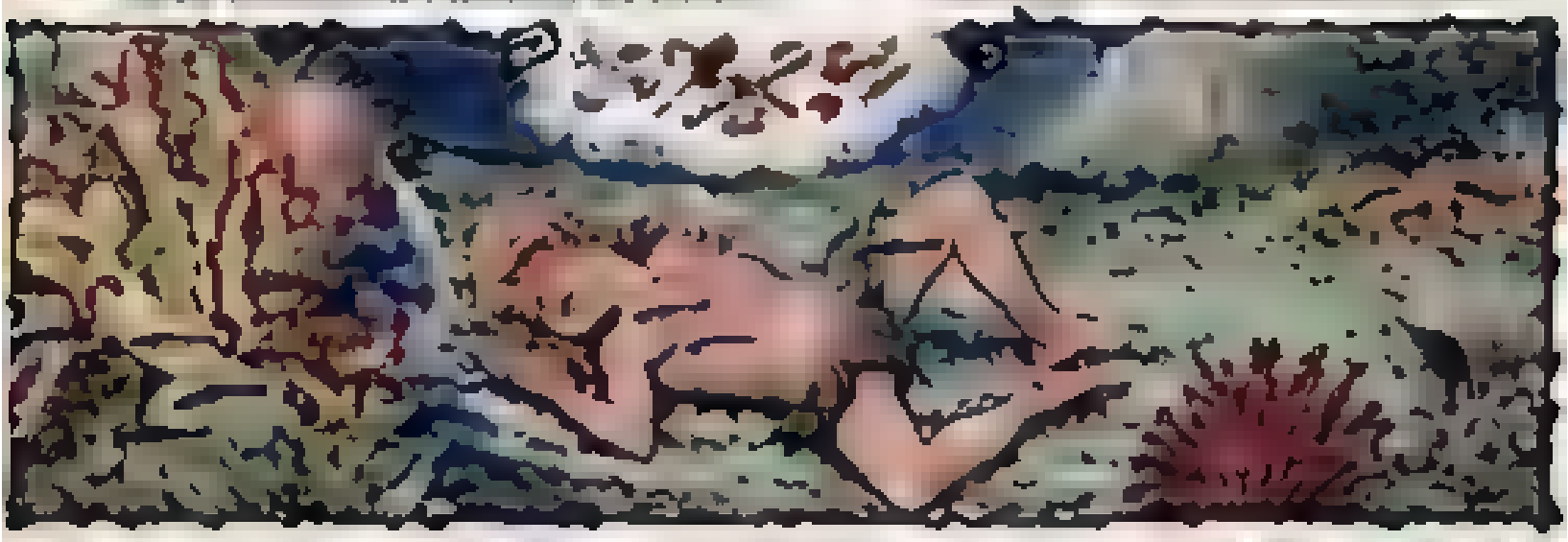


4 [illegible] which the good fairies had [illegible] because they had been [illegible] and [illegible] and would not [illegible] them and [illegible] they came to no [illegible] Now we must go home, they said, and they [illegible] Tom happily [illegible] them.

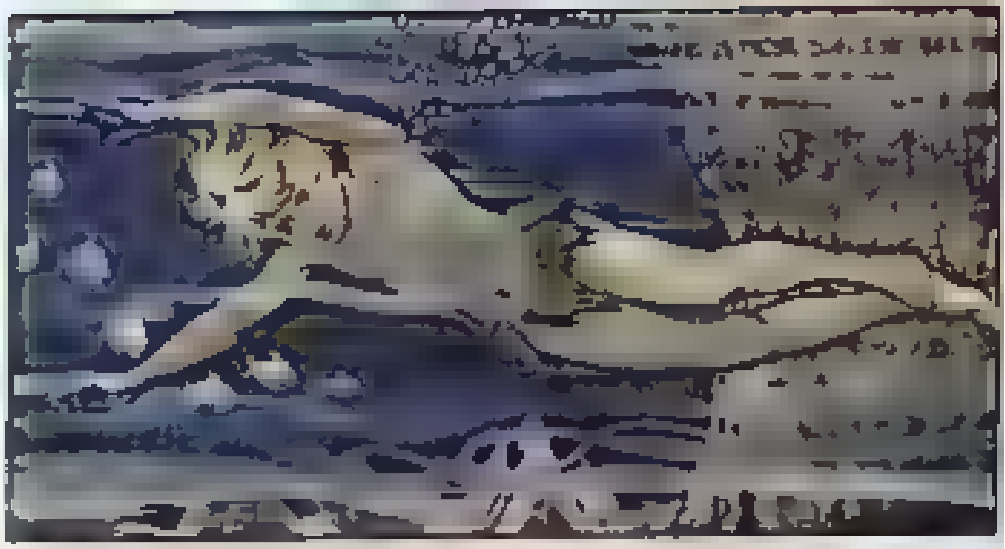


5 Do you know where the name [illegible] place called San Francisco [illegible] of many different [illegible] the caves beneath the [illegible] water babies and other creatures of the sea. To keep the place clean [illegible] the tops off the sand and [illegible]

The Water Babies



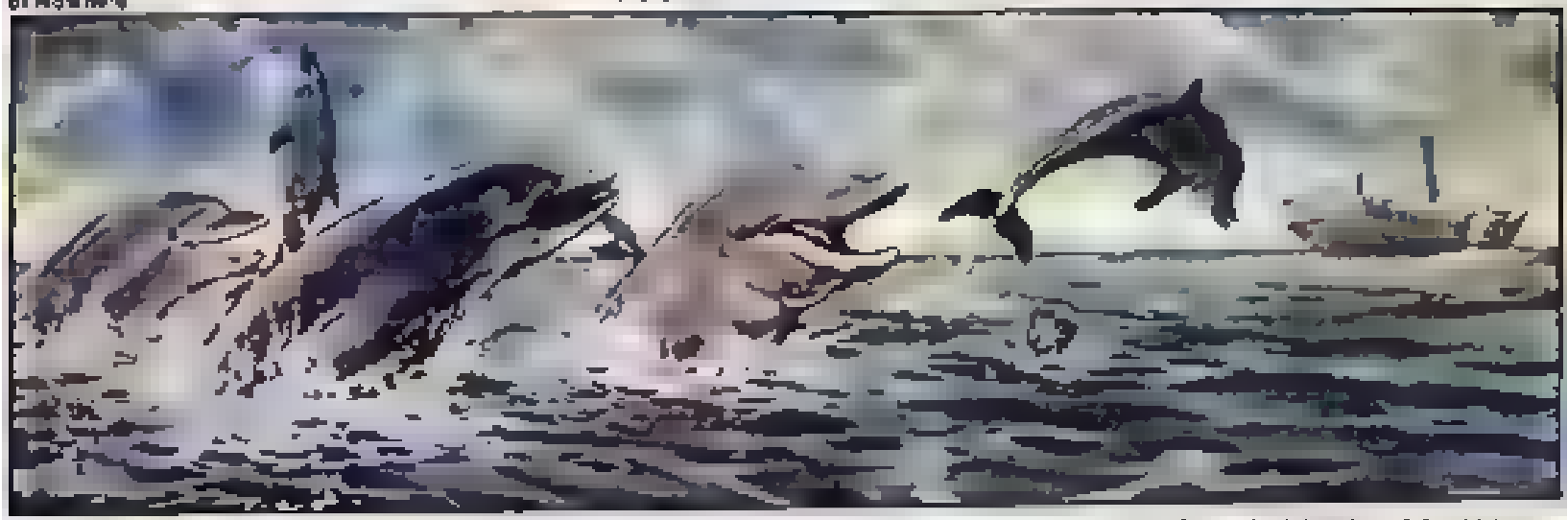
The Water Babies



Since becoming a water baby Tom, the little chimney sweep, had been so naughty and greedy that he became covered in prickles. To get rid of them he decides to do a kind deed and find his cruel old master Mr Grimes, who has gone to the Other-end-of-Nowhere.

1 Now Be-done-by-as-you-did told Tom what to do. "You must go farther than the world's end," Tom, she said. "You must go to the Shiny Wall and then to Mother Carey's kitchen where the good whales go when they die. There Mother Carey will tell you the way to the Other-end-of-Nowhere and there you will find Mr Grimes."

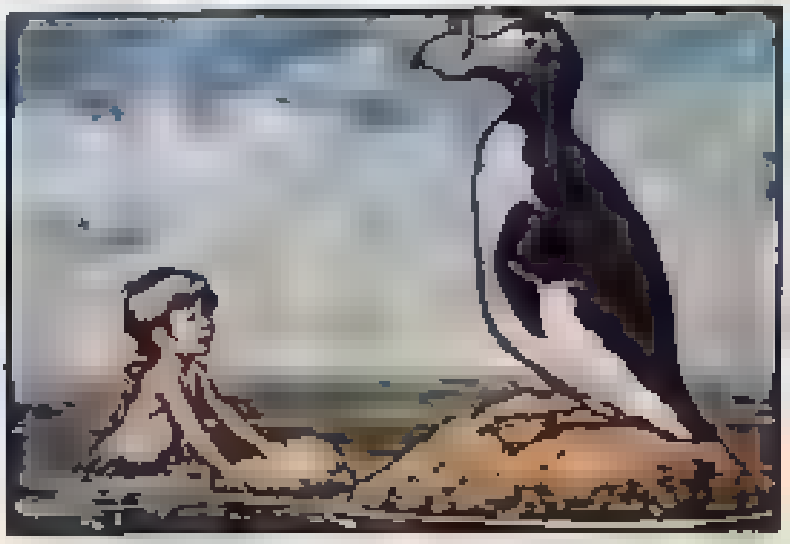
"Oh dear," said Tom, "but I do not know the way to the Shiny Wall." "You must ask all the beasts in the sea and all the birds in the air," said the fairy as Tom set off.



2 On his way Tom asked all the birds of the air and the beasts in the sea. But none of them knew the way to the Shiny Wall. For why? He was still off the coast of South America. Then he met a ship, a larger than he had ever seen, a great ocean steamer with a long cloud of smoke trailing behind. A school of dolphins were running alongside and round her and Tom spoke to them too.

3 He asked them the way to the Shiny Wall but they did not know. Tom looked up at the sailors and people on the decks of the ship and he called out to them—but they did not answer, because they could not see him. Only a few special people can see water babies even when they are there. When he got no answer Tom turned away sad and wondering and swam towards the North.

4 Tom continued to swim northwards day after day. At last he met the King of the Herrings. Tom asked him the way to the Shiny Wall and the King of the Herrings said in reply, "Where were you young man? You should go to the Ammonite stone and ask the Gairfowl. She knows a lot about everything." Tom asked his way to her and the King of the Herrings told him very kindly.



5 Away went Tom for seven days and seven nights until he came to a great piece of rock that stuck up out of the huge ocean. It was the Ammonite stone and on it was the Gairfowl all alone. A very grand old lady she was, very much like a penguin. "Shiny Wall?" she squawked. "Oh dear, my poor old brains are getting quite puzzled. You'd better ask the birds."

6 Then a flock of petrels came along and they are Mother Carey's own chickens. They flitted along like a flock of black swallows, [illegible] and skipping from wave to wave. Tom called to them and asked the way to the Shiny Wall. "Shiny Wall? Come with us and we will show you," they said.

7 Tom was delighted and he went after the petrels. "First of all we must go to Albatrossness and wait there for the great gathering of all the seabirds on their way to their breeding places in the Northern Isles," they told him. When Tom reached Albatrossness, the seabirds were gathering there in tens of thousands, quacking and clucking and gabbling and chattering among themselves. "These are the fellows to show you the way to the Shiny Wall," the kind petrels said to Tom.

8 The petrels spoke to some of the biggest seagulls, who are sometimes called molly-cocks. "Come, come, you silly greedy things," they said. "This young gentleman is going to Mother Carey and wants to know the way to the Shiny Wall." "Greedy we may be, but lazy we are not," said one great fat molly-cock. "We'll help the little lad." So the molly-cocks, who were jolly birds, took Tom, the sailor baby, with their cackling and joking. They headed towards the cold North, where they would find the Shiny Wall.

9 They flew northwards for many days to places colder than Tom had ever known before. Being a water baby, he did not feel the cold, but was frightened when he saw packs of icebergs launched together in the sea, groaning and growling as they knocked into each other.

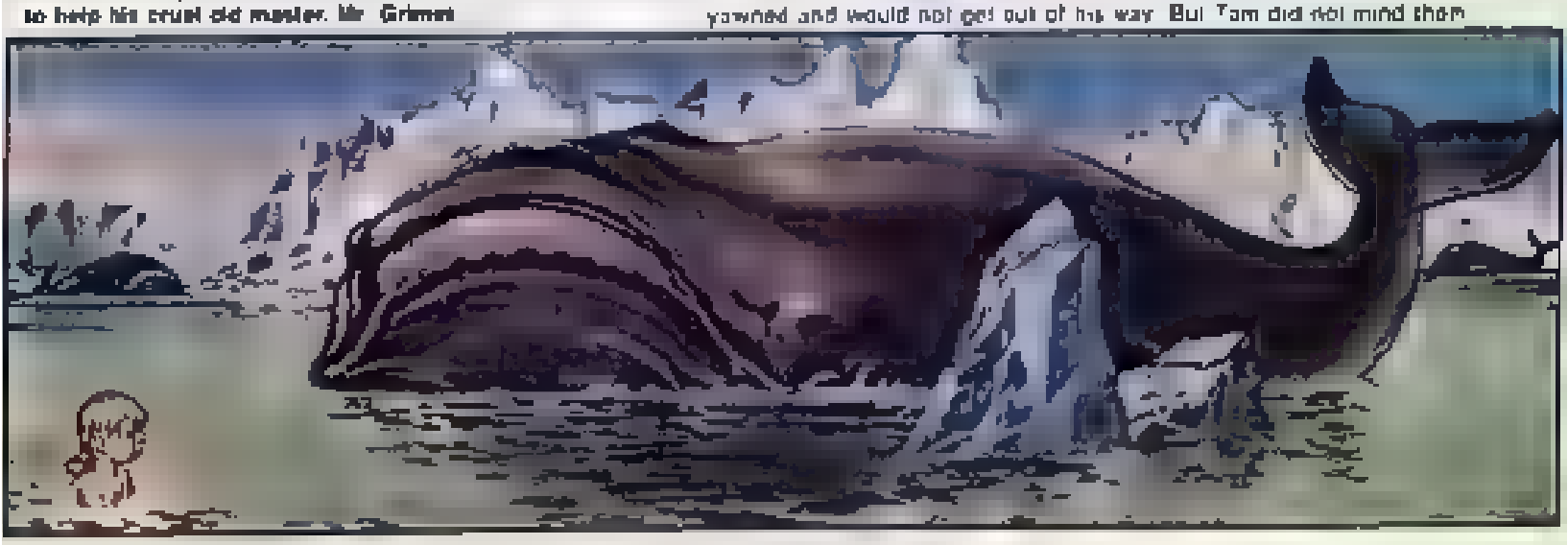
10 The good molly-cock carried Tom safely over the icebergs and set him down at the foot of the Shiny Wall. It was a great wall of ice and stretched as far as Tom could see—and so high that nobody could have climbed over. "Where is the gate?" asked Tom. "I don't see it." "There isn't one," said the molly-cock.

11 "No gate?" gasped Tom in surprise. "What am I to do then? I must get to the other side of the Shiny Wall to find Mother Carey." "Then you must find and dash under the great Shiny Wall, if you have the courage," said the molly-cock. "I have not come this far to be turned back now," said Tom, very bravely.

The Water Babies

Brave little Tom, who was once a naughty little boy who swept chimneys, becomes a water baby. To show how good he has become he sets off on a journey to the Shiny Wall, a great barrier of ice in the sea. He hopes to find the Other-end-of-Nowhere to help his crust old master, Mr Grimes.

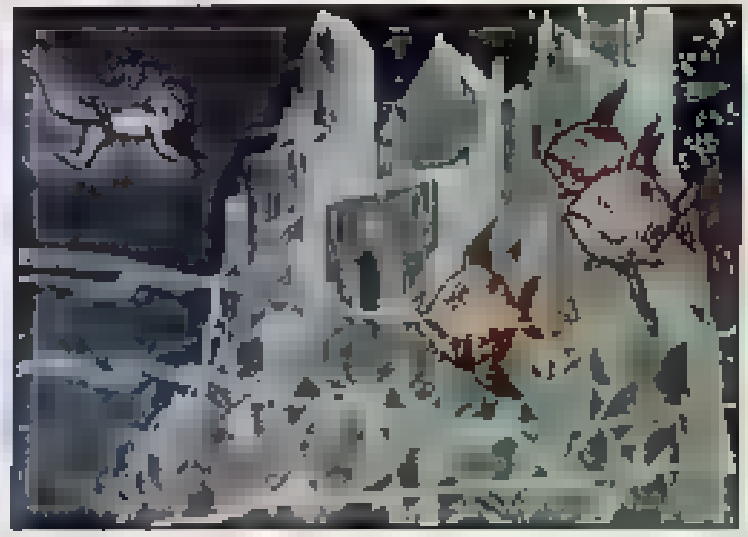
1 There was no gate in the Shiny Wall, so Tom had to dive down to the bottom of the sea and swim under it. He swam for seven days and nights and he was not a bit frightened. Why should he be? He was a brave lad. On his way he swam through shoals of yellow shrimps that hopped and skipped about, and through a crowd of jellyfish of all the colours of the world that neither hopped nor skipped but only dawdled and yawned and would not get out of his way. But Tom did not mind them.



2 At last he got to the top of the sea again, to the pool where all the good whales go. A very large pool it was, miles and miles across. All round it were cliffs of ice. These kept away the storms and clouds, keeping Mother Carey's pool calm from one year's end to another. There the good whales lay on the still sea: blue whales, fin whales, and bottle-nosed whales.

3 They were happy, sleepy beasts, waiting for Mother Carey to send for them to make them out of old beasts into new. Tom swam up to the nearest whale and asked the way to Mother Carey. "There she sits in the middle," said the whale. Tom looked but could see nothing in the middle of the pool except one peaked iceberg. "That is where you will find her—underneath it," said the whale.

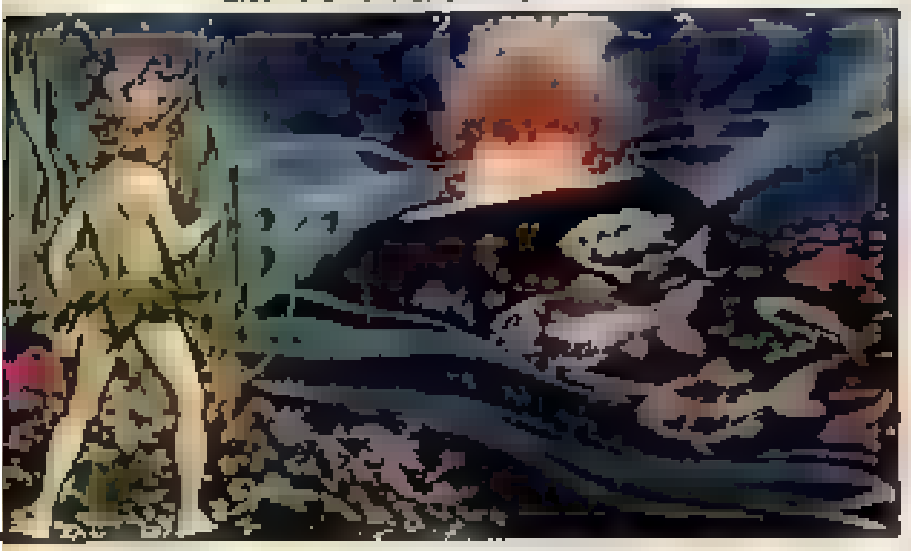
4 "What does she do down there?" Tom asked. The old whale gave a big yawn and answered, "She's busy all the year round making old beasts into new ones." "If she makes things into new," said Tom, thinking hard, "I suppose that she cuts up a great whale like you into a whale shoal of porpoises." At that remark the old whale laughed loudly. "Run along with you, boy, and find out," he chuckled.



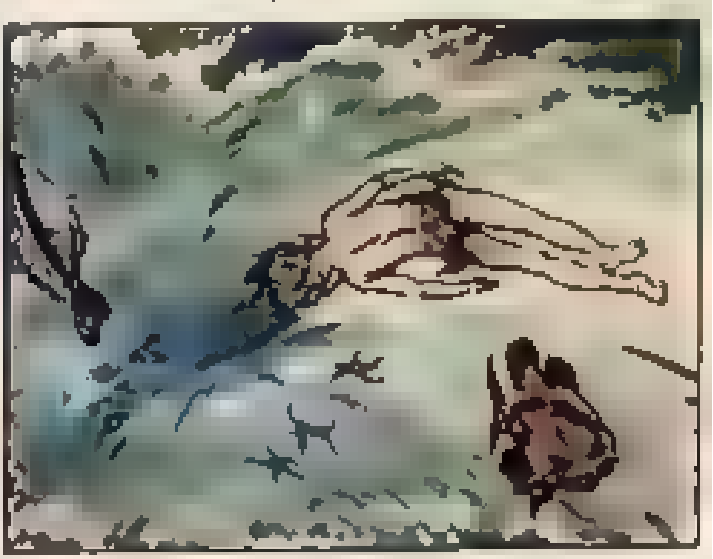
5 Wondering what he might find, Tom swam to the iceberg and dived down beside it. As he swam towards the bottom of the sea he was passed by a rising cloud of millions of very tiny new-born creatures, of more shapes and colours than he had ever dreamed of. They were Mother Carey's children, whom she makes out of sea water all day long.

6 Tom expected, as most people would, to find her as burly as could be, but instead of that he came upon the grandest lady he had ever seen, a white marble lady sitting on a white marble throne. She sat quite still, looking around with two blues eyes as blue as the sea itself. "It is a long time since I have seen a water baby here," she said kindly.

7 Tom told her his errand and how he had been sent to find Mr. Grimes at the Other-end-of-Nowhere. Although Mr. Grimes had treated him cruelly when he had been a chimney-sweep, Tom had a duty to be kind to him, for, knowing what he had learned, he was of a good little boy. "You are a splendid little fellow," said Mother Carey and when she told him the way to go, Tom thanked her kindly and swam off with no more delay.



8 Tom walked for a long time along the salt ocean floor and soon became aware of a hissing and a roaring, as though all the steam engines in the world were working at once. When he came nearer to the noise the water grew boiling hot, but that did not hurt him in the least. At last Tom came very close to the Other-end-of-Nowhere. He reached a place which was called Stop. And there he stopped on the edge of a big hole.



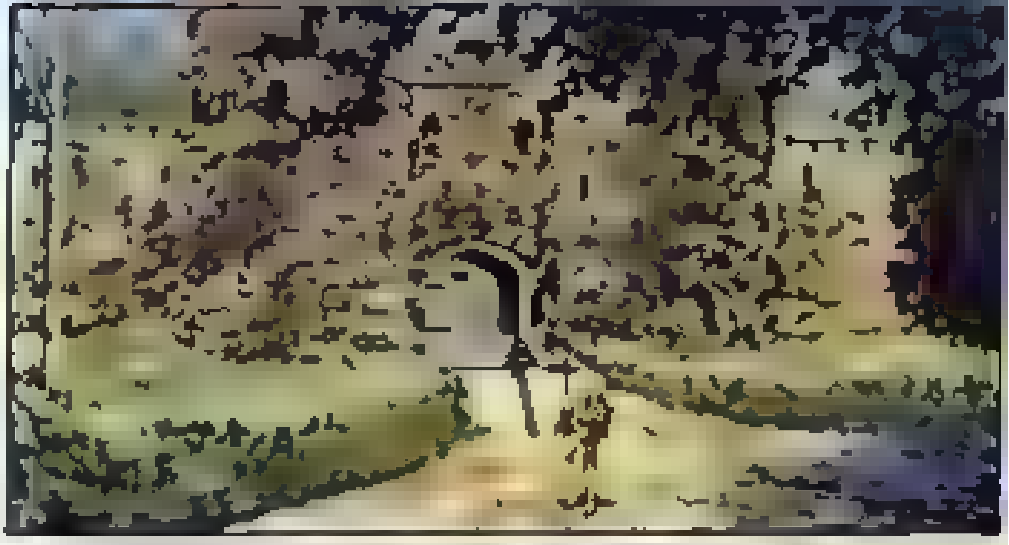
9 It was a kind of small volcano and the steam that came out of it made the water spin round and round in a sort of whirlpool. It made gurgling noises that reminded Tom that once, when chimney-sweeping in a big house, he saw a bath emptying itself down the plughole. He let himself be carried down it, hoping for the best.

10 He went tumbling and tumbling down through the great hole and when he got to the bottom of it he came safely to the shore of the Other-end-of-Nowhere. He saw before him a huge building made of brick. It reminded Tom of a prison and as he walked towards it he had a strange fancy that he might find Mr. Grimes somewhere inside it.

11 Boldly Tom marched towards the building when something shouted "Stop!" It was nothing more than a policeman's truncheon running along without arms and legs. And when the truncheon asked him his business, Tom told him that he had come from Mother Carey and was looking for Mr. Grimes.

The Water Babies

Brave Tom has changed from being a naughty little chimney-sweep into a good and well-behaved water baby. He has brought the last of finding his great old master, Mr Grimes, who has been punished by being put in a prison at the Other-end-of-Nowhere. Tom speaks to a policeman's truncheon at the entrance.

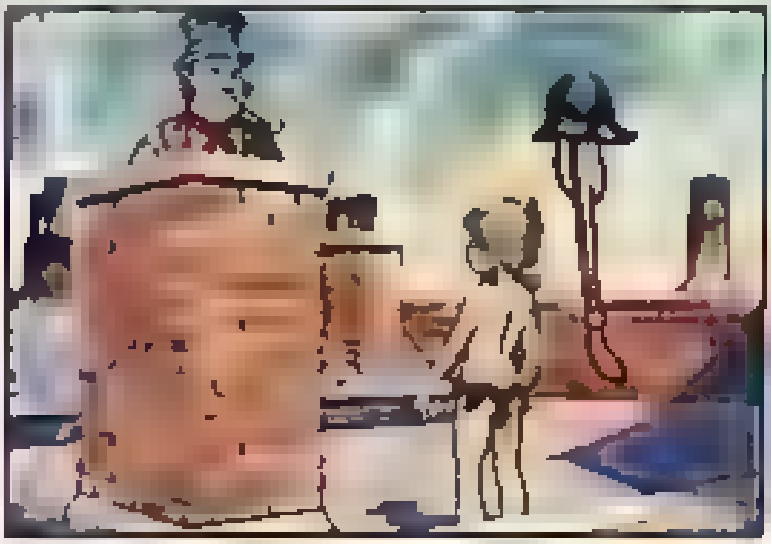


1 [illegible] the policeman's truncheon was running along without arms or legs, but it was not a bit surprised. He was long past that. Since becoming a water baby he had seen many strange and wonderful sights. "I have come from Mother Carey," he told the truncheon warder. "My job is to find Mr Grimes and make him happy." "All right, follow me," said the truncheon. "We'll see if it can be arranged." He turned and went ahead of Tom, ascending in towards the great door of the huge prison.

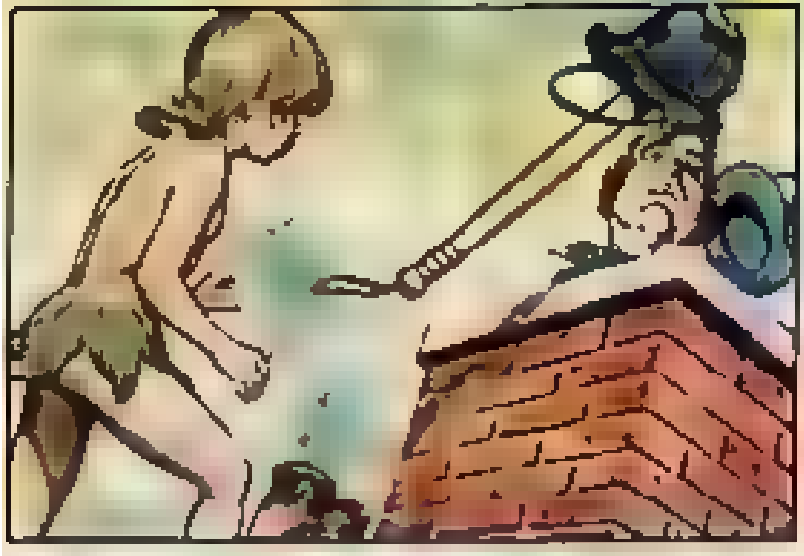
2 When they came up [illegible] soon the truncheon warder called out a challenge with his cast iron head. The door opened and out came a [illegible] old brass lounge boss, who was the porter. Tom started back at the sight of him. "What case is this?" asked the boss, looking at the [illegible] out at his brass face. "If you please, sir, it is no case," replied the truncheon.

3 "It is only a young gentleman who wishes to see Mr Grimes," said the truncheon. "He wishes to see Mr Grimes, the sweep." "Grimes?" said the porter boss. "Grimes is up in chimney number 345, in the young gentleman's head. Let him go on to the roof." "How do I get up there?" asked Tom, looking up at the [illegible] "All right, I'll go," said Tom. But for a moment the truncheon settled that little matter.

4 [illegible] Tom [illegible] up [illegible] said. But [illegible] Grimes [illegible] nothing for Tom [illegible] which [illegible] to [illegible] They [illegible] through the many smoky [illegible]



5 [illegible] to chimney number 345 [illegible] Tom [illegible] through the [illegible] Tom [illegible] puffing [illegible] "Tom," he said, "have you come to [illegible]

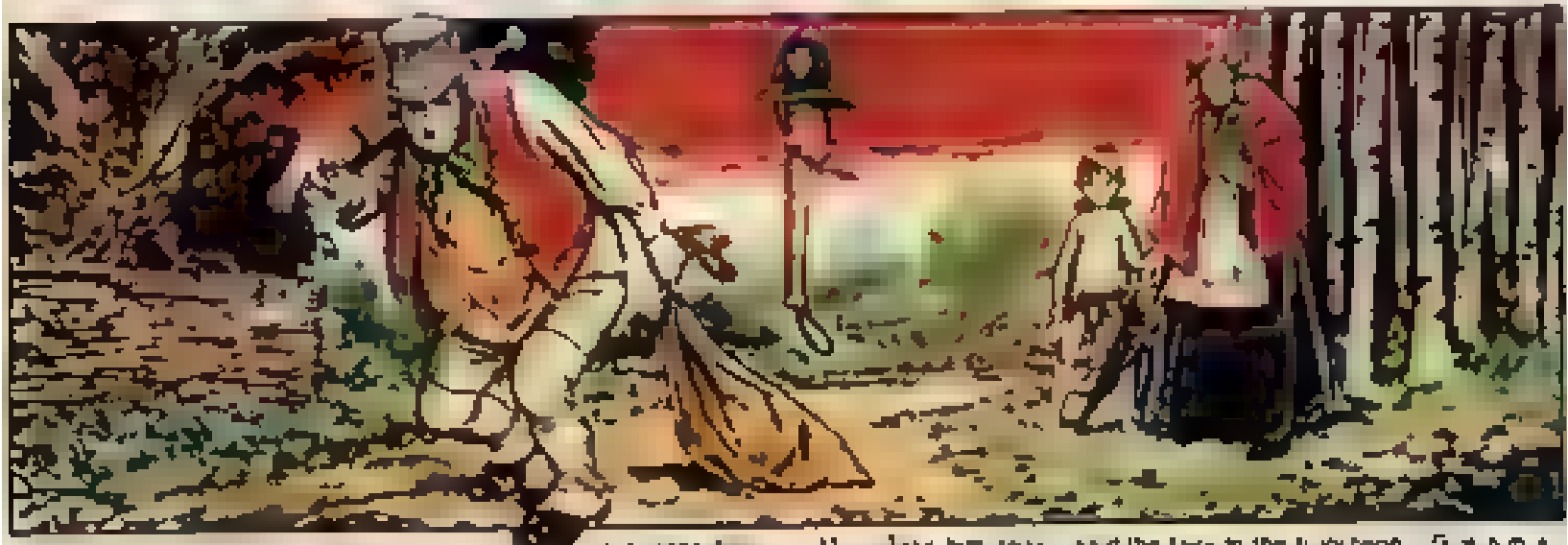


6 "Keep a civil tongue in your head," said the truncheon and it popped up just like Punch, hitting Grimes such a crack over the head with itself that he fell back. He tried to get his hands out to rub the place but he could not, for they were stuck fast in the chimney. "Every thing's all my fault," grumbled Grimes. "But if my arms were free you'd not hit me."

7 "Can't I help him to get out of his chimney?" asked Tom. "Perhaps," answered a solemn voice from behind Tom. He turned round and politely saw Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did. When the truncheon saw her it stood bolt upright — "Attention" — and Tom made a low bow. "Oh, Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did," said Tom, "can we may do something to help poor old Mr. Grimes?"

8 "You may try, of course," said the ugly fairy. Tom tugged and pulled at the bricks of the chimney but he could not move one. "You'd best leave me alone," said Grimes. "You're good enough and kind, my little child, and this is the truth. But you don't know what I'm sorry for all the nasty things I've done in my life. But it's too late now. It's never too late," said the strange lady.

9 "Shall we try, Mr. Grimes?" cried Tom, and he put his own tears aside. He had no strength to do this, wished he mortar away from between the bricks and the chimney began to crumble down. Seeing this Grimes was ready to get out. "If he hit us with his truncheon we're going to be in for it," said he. "Hit me on the head with a thump," said Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did. "Stopped it."



10 "If you obey me I will give you [illegible] and pleased," said Grimes. "As you please, ma'am," said Grimes. "You're strange, and wiser than me. I'll do whatever your ladyship says." Grimes stepped out of the chimney and for once he looked as clean and respectable as a master sweep should look.

11 "Take him away," said the fairy to the truncheon. "Give him a useful job to do. Let him to sweep out the crater of Mount Etna." Tom looked a little puzzled. Because he had never been to school to learn about anything he did not know at the time that Mount Etna was a large volcano in the island of Sic

The Water Babies

Since becoming a water baby, Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, goes to a prison at the Otherwend of Newfare and sees free his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes. Promising to be good and kind in future, Grimes is sent off on a job, to sweep the crater of Mount Etna.

1 Looking very meek, Mr. Grimes let the policeman march him off to do the job chosen for him by Mrs. Bedone by-as-you-did. Tom waved goodbye to his old master and for all anyone knows, or cares, he is still sweeping the crater of Mount Etna to this very day. Sometimes the volcano gets choked up with too many red-hot cinders and throws them out in showers. Then Mr. Grimes has to work twice as hard to sweep the crater clean before it covers the island of Sicily with ashes.

2 "Now," smiled the fairy to Tom, "your work here is done. You may as well go back again, but I must bandage your eyes first." Tom stood quite still and let the strange fairy blindfold his eyes with a handkerchief. He did not feel the least bit surprised about it.

3 Nor was Tom very surprised by what happened next. In the world of the water babies so many things had taken place that he had ceased to wonder at the magic of them. With one hand Mrs. Bedone-by-as-you-did tied the handkerchief around his eyes and with the other she took him by the hand. "Come, you are safe," she said. It seemed to Tom that he had not moved a single step, but when he opened his eyes and looked round him, he knew that he was back again on the bottom of the sea close to Saint Brandan's Isle.

4 Tom walked out of the sea and up the gently sloping beach. The first things he saw were the cliffs of Saint Brandan's Isle, standing high and sharp against the rosy dawn. The wind sang softly in the rocks and water sang among the caves.

5 The seabirds also sang as they streamed out into the ocean, but among the songs one came across the water more sweet and clear than the others. It was the song of a young girl's voice and it was the sweetest sound that Tom had ever heard.

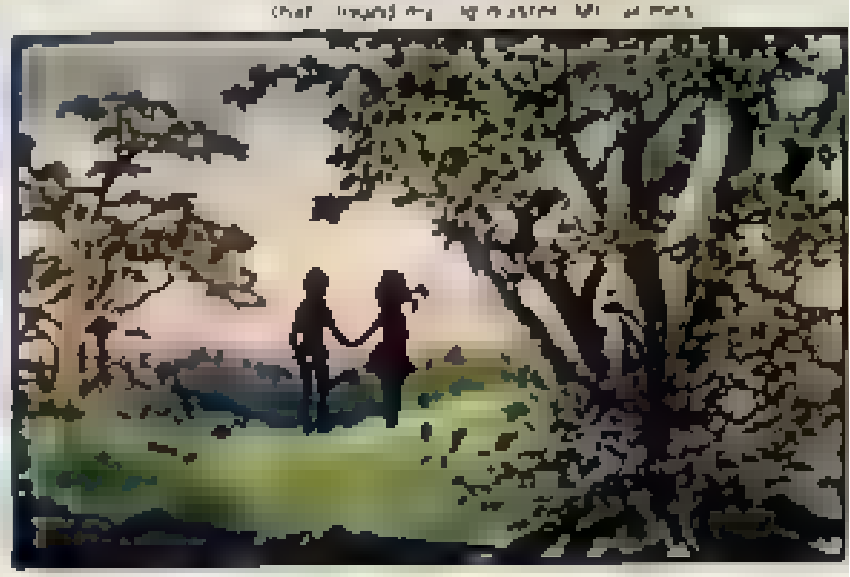
6 Tom hurried to find out who was singing and there upon a rock sat the most graceful creature that was ever seen. When Tom came near she looked up and behold it was Elsie the girl he had seen in Mr Grimes' House when he had been sweeping the chimneys. "Oh, Miss Elsie," said Tom. "Oh, Tom," she said, "I thought you were never coming."

Tom looked at Elsie and Elsie looked at Tom. They might have stood like that for years, a voice had not said to them, "Attention, children, are you never going to look at me again?" There stood the ugly fairy. "Oh," exclaimed Elsie, "You are our fairy. Be done by as you did." "Yes," said the fairy. "Take a look at me, children."

8 As if by magic, the ugly fairy seemed to change. "Now you are fairy. Do as you would be done by," said Tom. "You have grown quite beautiful now." Jim opened his mouth in wonder. The ugly fairy, "Be done by as you did, and the nasty fairy, "Do as you would be done by," was supposed to be spoken, so how could they be not one person? "I cannot make it out at all," he said.

9 "Now look again," the fairy said. And once more there was a magic change. "Now you are fairy Carey," said Jim, the lad who swam under the Shiny Wall into the pool where the good old whales go to be made young again. "It was you who told me how to do it. When I did it, I was here and I was here (that thought they had gone mad, Mr Grimes).

10 "Look again," the fairy said. "Who am I now?" "Why, you are the neighbour woman who met me the day I went to sweep the chimneys at his Flower House," said Tom. Smiling, she turned to Elsie. "You may take him home with you now," she said. "Tom has become good by helping Mr Grimes."



11 "Did Tom marry Elsie?" Nobody really knows. In a lot of fairy tales and in fairy tales it is usually only princes and princesses who marry. But Tom and Elsie were so kind and so good that there is no reason to think that they should not be the square of a prince and princess, is there? And we know for sure that they were very happy.

Jesús Blasco

Alice in Wonderland

~& Playing Card Collection~

Once Upon a Time

4 October 1970 #89 - 2 January 1971 #99

Lewis Carrol

ALICE IN WONDERLAND must be one of the most popular fairy stories ever written, and the characters that appear in the book are known and loved by many children.

The book was written by Lewis Carrol, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson and he was born in 1832. It is strange that a man who could delight so many children with his wonderful tales, was also a brilliant mathematician—a subject which most youngsters hate.

Queen Victoria was very fond of the book and it is said that she asked the author to send a copy of his next book which turned out to be a book on Mathematics. How disappointed she must have been.

Lewis Carrol was a young man when he wrote Alice in Wonderland and it may interest you to know that there really was a little girl called Alice. She was the daughter of his friend, H. G. Liddell, dean of Christ Church, Oxford. And it was to her and her two sisters, that Lewis Carrol would tell stories, one of them being Alice in Wonderland.

From the real Alice, we learn that most of Lewis Carrol's stories were told on river expeditions near Oxford, and the day on which Alice in Wonderland was told, was very hot and they all had to take shelter from the sun in a newly-made hay rick.

The author copied out the story and gave it to Alice as a Christmas present. It became her most treasured possession, and when she was finally persuaded to sell the story, it was bought in the United States in 1928 for the sum of £15,400.

Starting this week in Once Upon A Time, is the story of Alice in Wonderland. By reading you will meet strange characters, such as the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and of course—Alice.

Once Upon a Time

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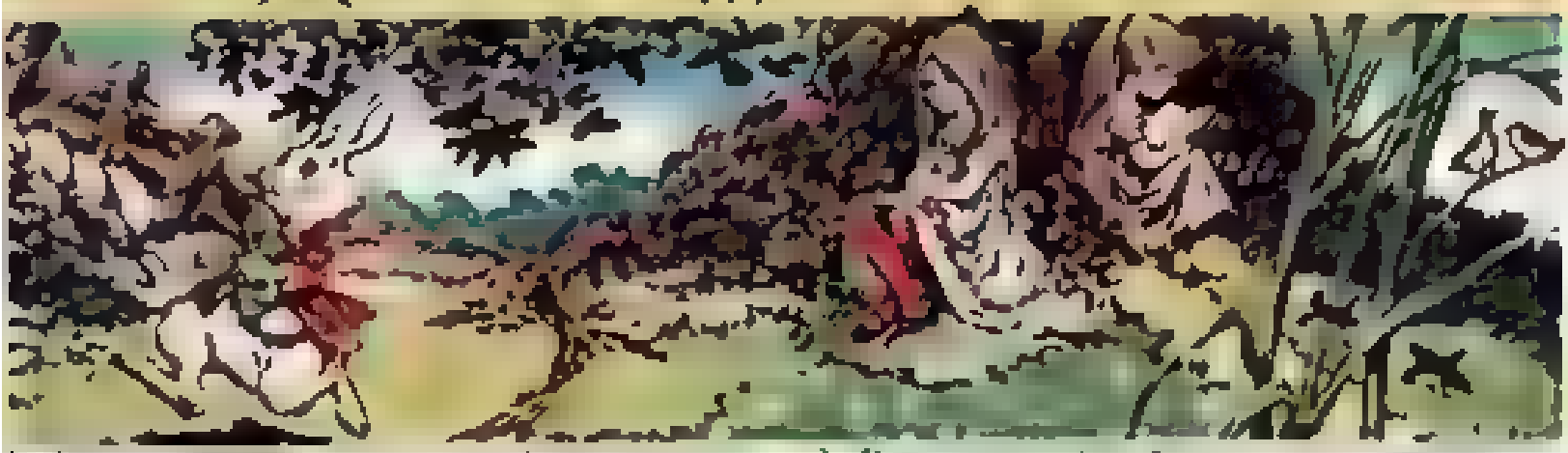
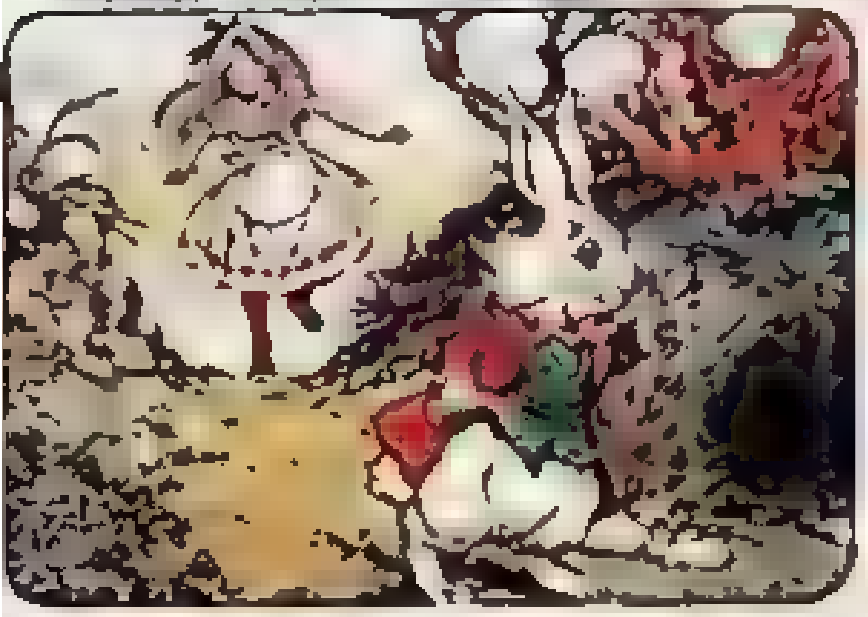
ALICE in WONDERLAND

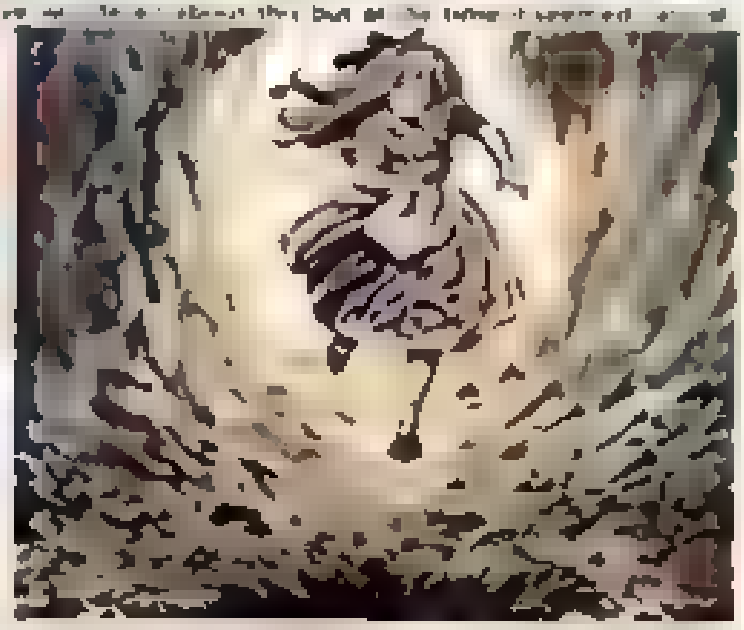


1. Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting beside her sister and having nothing to do. The hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid and her eyes began to close.

2. Then suddenly a White Rabbit ran past her. "I'm late, I'm late, I'm late," it was saying. Now Alice should have wondered about this but at the time it seemed [illegible]



3. Then when the White Rabbit took a watch from its waistcoat pocket and looked at it, Alice jumped to her feet. She was now [illegible] nothing [illegible] before and a rabbit with a waistcoat pocket or a watch to take out of it. So she hurried after it.



4. She was just in time to see it pop down a large hole and Alice went down after it, never once considering how in the world she was going to get out again. The hole went straight on like a tunnel and then [illegible]

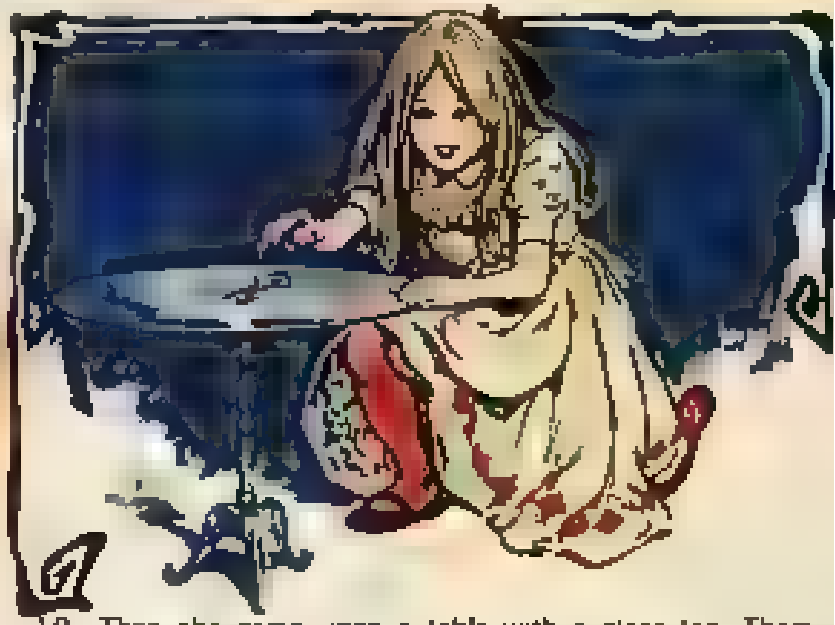
5. Poor Alice had not a moment to think how to stop herself and she went falling down and down and down a deep well. [illegible] with all sorts of puzzling things

6. "I wonder how many miles I have fallen," she wondered. "That I [illegible] right through the Earth to the other side!" Suddenly [illegible] bump. Down she came upon a heap of [illegible]

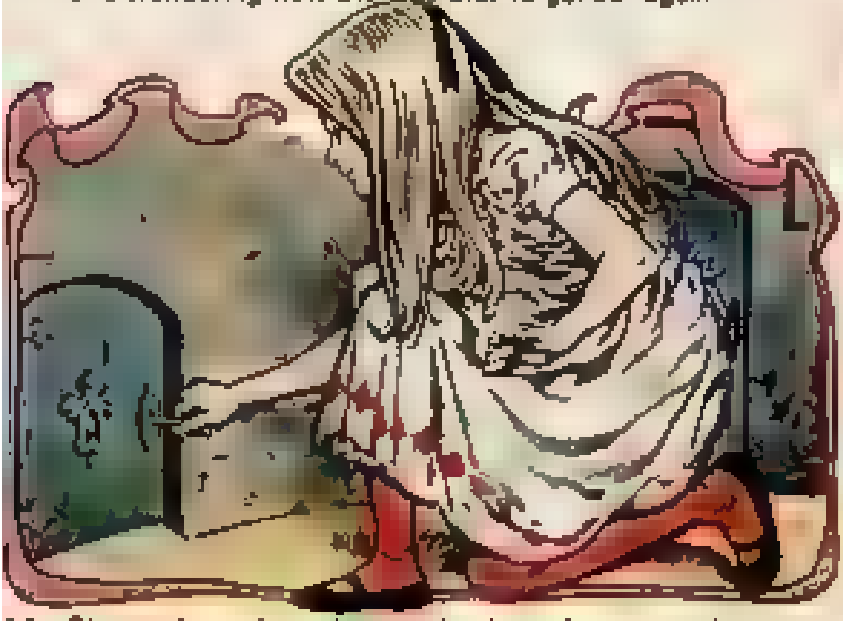
7. Alice was not hurt and jumped to her feet in a moment. In front of her was another passage and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it as fast as it could go.

8. "Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it is getting!" the White Rabbit was saying. It turned a corner, and when Alice followed round it, the rabbit was no longer in sight.

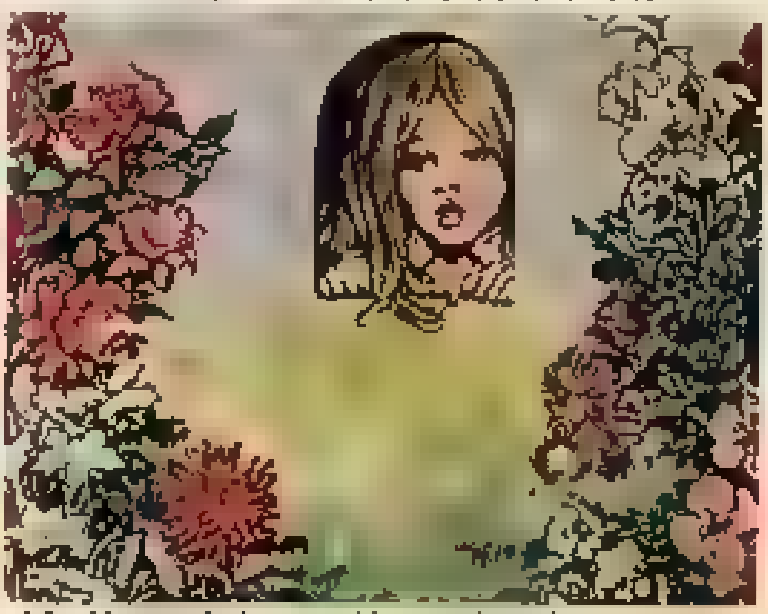
9. She found herself in a long, low hall. There were a number of doors around the hall, but they were all locked. Alice went up one side and down the other, trying every door and wondering how she was ever to get out again.



10. Then she came upon a table with a glass top. There was nothing on it except a golden key and Alice's first thought was that it might belong to one of the doors of the hall. "At least I can try it in the locks," she said to herself.



11. She tried one door after another but alas, it would not open any of them until she came upon a tiny door only about fifteen inches high. To her delight it fitted.



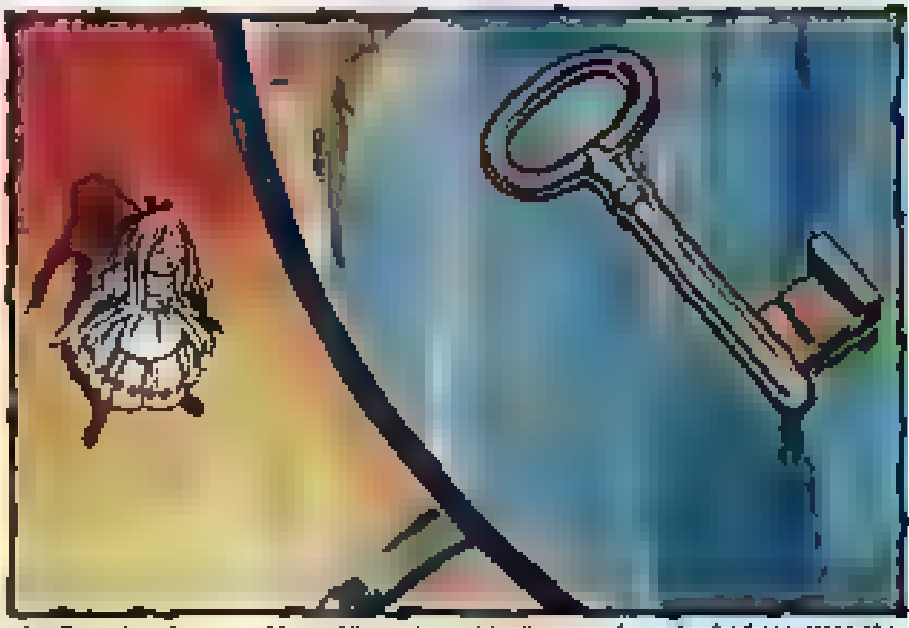
12. Alice knelt down and looked through the tiny door at the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get into it—but the door was too small to get through.

Alice in Wonderland

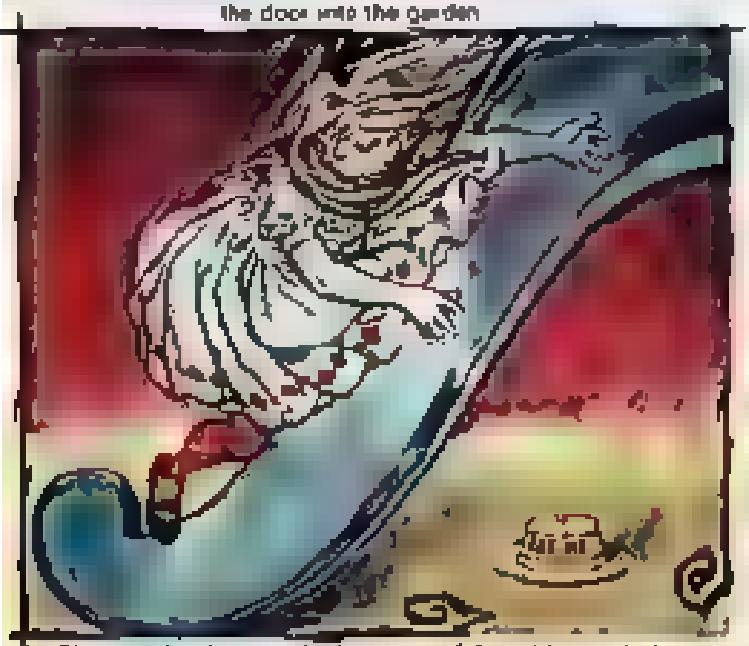
1 Alice wondered how she could get through the tiny door and into the garden on the other side of it, so she went back to the glass table. On it she found a bottle, which certainly was not there before.

2 Around the bottle was a label with the words DRINK ME in large letters. Alice drank some and it had a nice mixed flavour of cherry tart, pineapple and hot toast.

3 What a curious feeling, said Alice soon after. I must be shutting up like a telescope. So it was indeed. She was now only a few inches high and just the right size for going through the door into the garden.

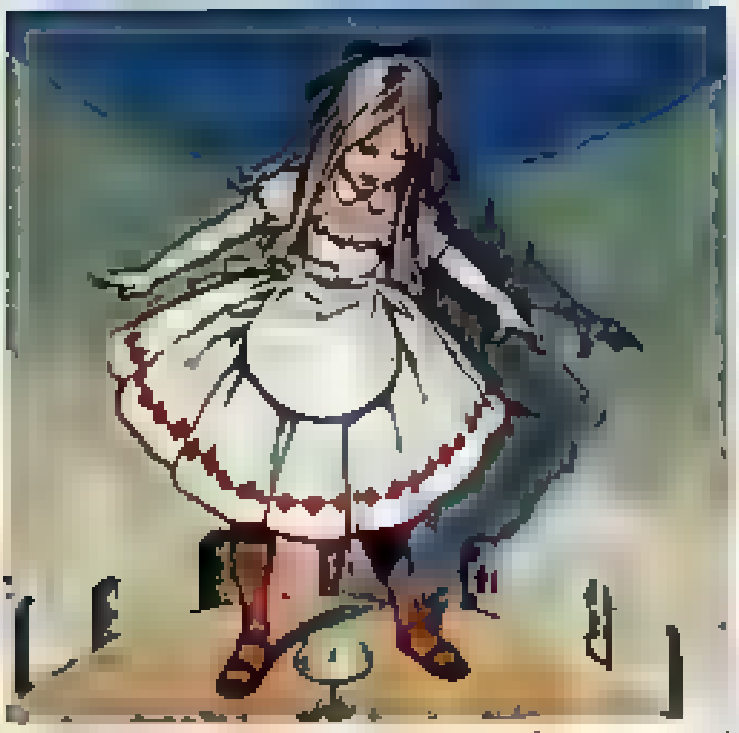


4 But, alas, for poor Alice. When she got to the tiny door she had forgotten the golden key that would open it. And when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it. Oh dear, how silly of me to put it back on the table, she murmured.



6 She tried her best to climb up one of the table-legs but it was too slippery. When she had tired herself out with trying, the poor little thing sat down and cried.

8 Crying was no use, so Alice looked around and found a cake under the table. EAT ME is iced in currants, so Alice took a big bite and next moment she turned opening out like the biggest telescope ever.



7 Curiouser and curiouser! thought Alice. Goodbye, my feet! For when she looked down they seemed to be almost out of sight. Oh, my poor feet! I wonder who will put your shoes on for you now? she said. Then her head hit the roof.

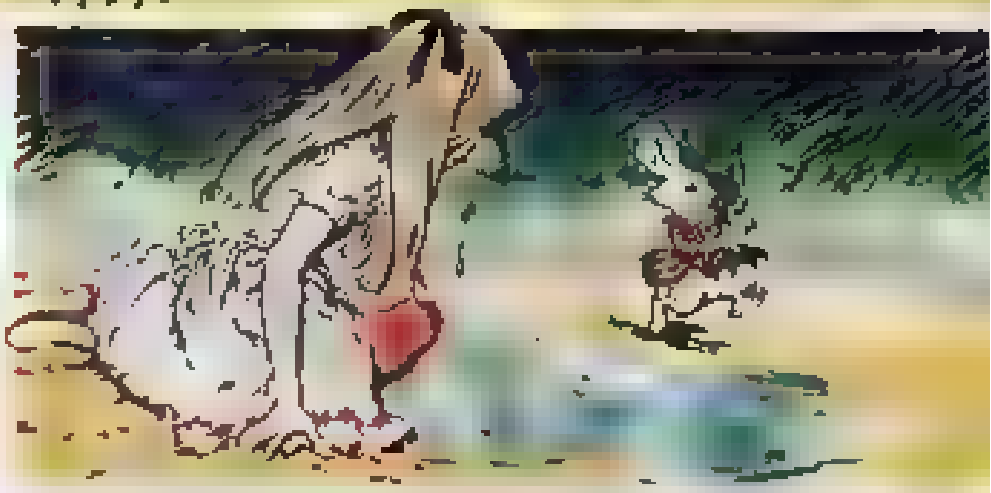
8 Now she seemed so be miles taller than the glass table, but at least she might reach down and take the golden key from off the top of it. I must be careful what I drink or eat in future, thought Alice to herself. But how to open that little garden door.

9 This she did, but it was no use. She could hardly get a couple of fingers through the tiny opening, let alone her head and shoulders. How queer everything is today, she said.

10 Crouching down and putting her head level with the door, Alice was able to look through into the garden with one eye. But the task was hopeless.

Alice in Wonderland

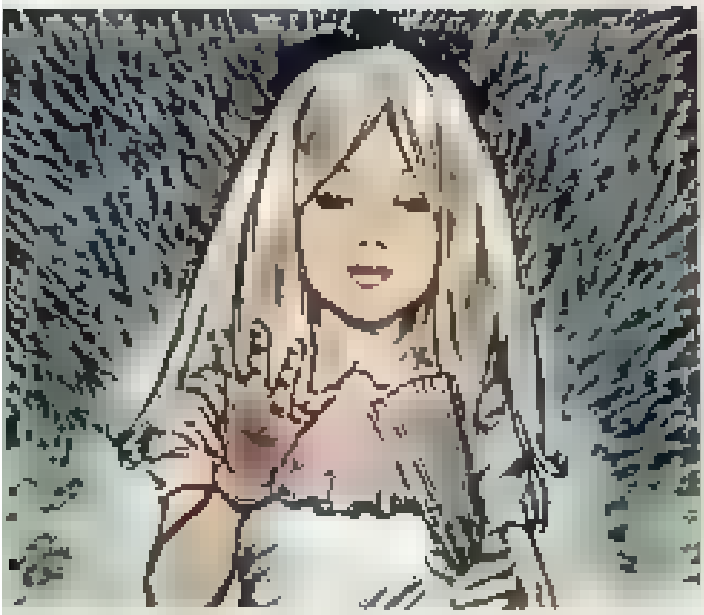
1 Poor Alice! She had now grown too big to get through the tiny door into the garden, so she sat down and cried, shedding gallons of salt tears.



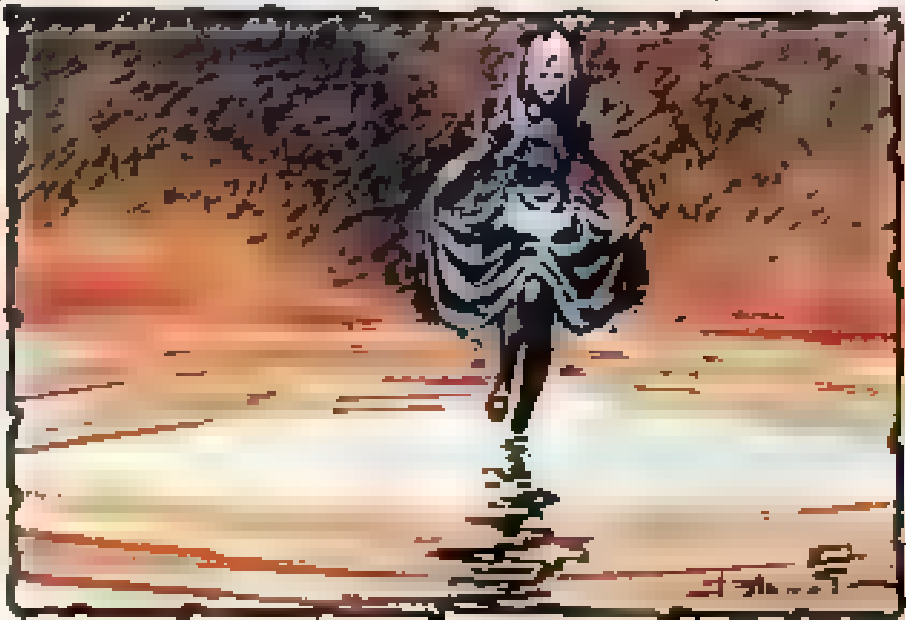
2 Soon there was a large pool all round her, several inches deep. Hearing a patter of feet she dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit, he came trotting along in a great hurry, muttering to himself. Oh, the Duchess, the Duchess!

3 The White Rabbit was splendidly dressed, with a pair of gloves in one hand and a fan in the other. If you please, sir – Alice began to say in a timid voice. The Rabbit started violently and before Alice could say anything else he dropped the gloves and fan and scurried away into the darkness just as hard as he could go.

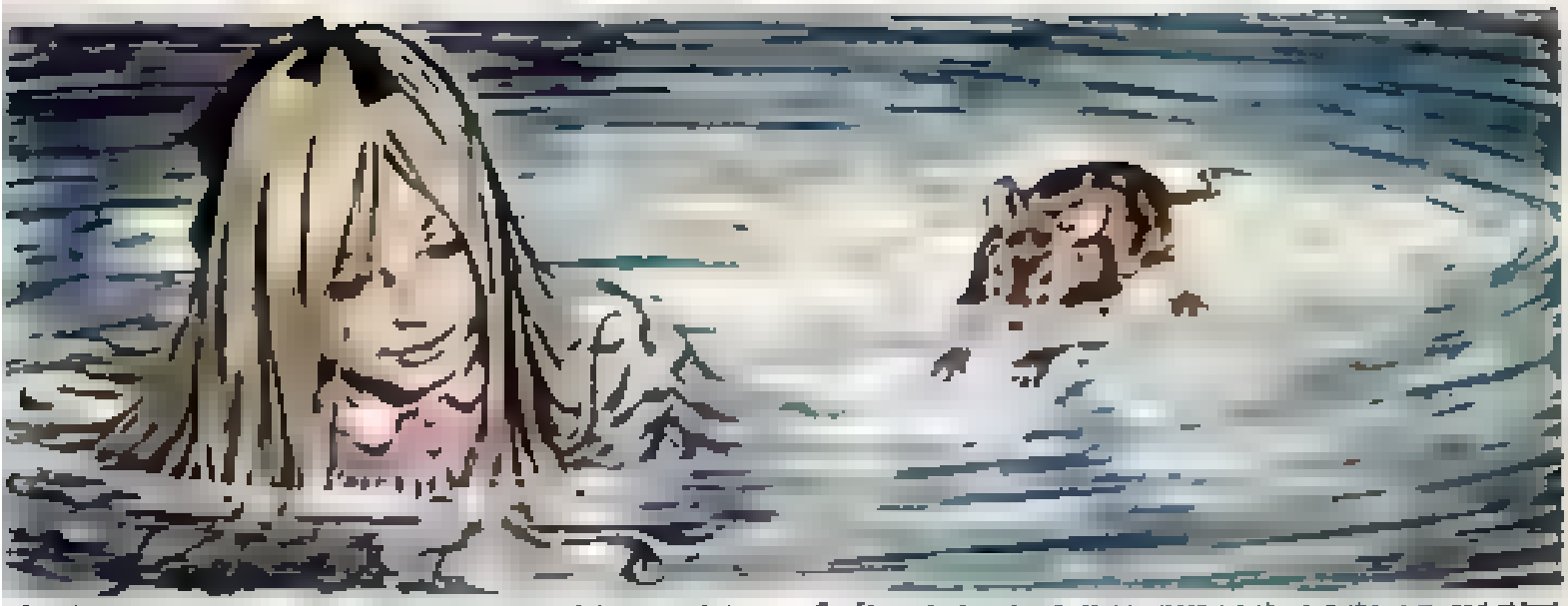
4 Alice took up the fan and gloves and, as the hall was very hot, she began fanning herself. Dear, dear, she said. How queer it all is.



5 As she spoke she looked down at her hand, and was surprised to see that she had put on one of the Rabbit's gloves. I must have grown small, she said.

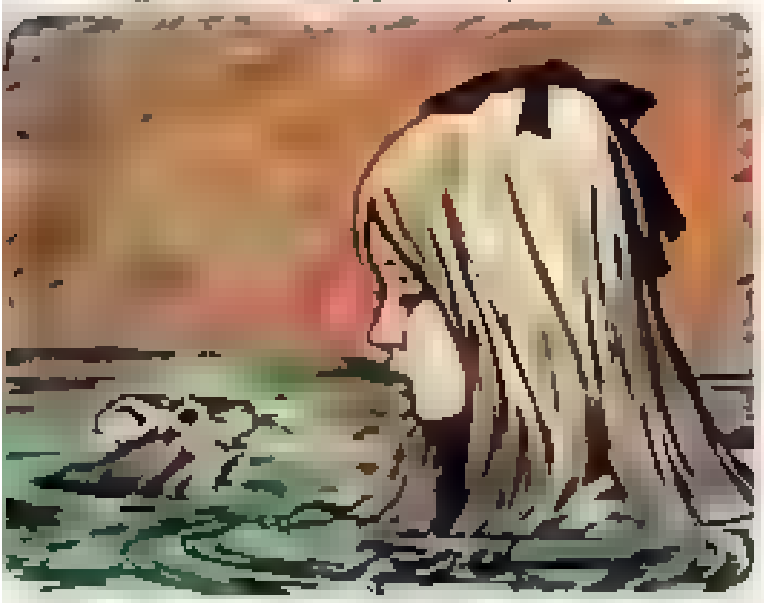


6 She was shrinking fast; the cause of it was the fan she was holding, so she dropped it hastily just in time to stop herself from shrinking away altogether. That was a narrow escape, she said, in relief.



1 [illegible] her [illegible] dragged [illegible] splash. [illegible] up to her chin [illegible] by her own tears.

6 Then she heard something splashing about in the pool, and at first thought it must be a hippopotamus or a walrus, until the unmistakable [illegible]



8 [illegible] Thought Alice. There was no room to lying [illegible] the height. Though she was [illegible] the only out of this pool! [illegible] of swimming around. The mouse [illegible]

9 There was a [illegible] and parrots [illegible] Dodo, a Lory, an Eaglet and several other curious creatures. It's a pool full of [illegible]

1 [illegible] the whole party swam out of the salty pool to the shore: the birds with draggled feathers and the animals with their coats clinging close to them.

2 They were all dripping wet and cross and uncomfortable. At last the mouse perched on the back of a lobster, called out: "Sit down [illegible] dry.

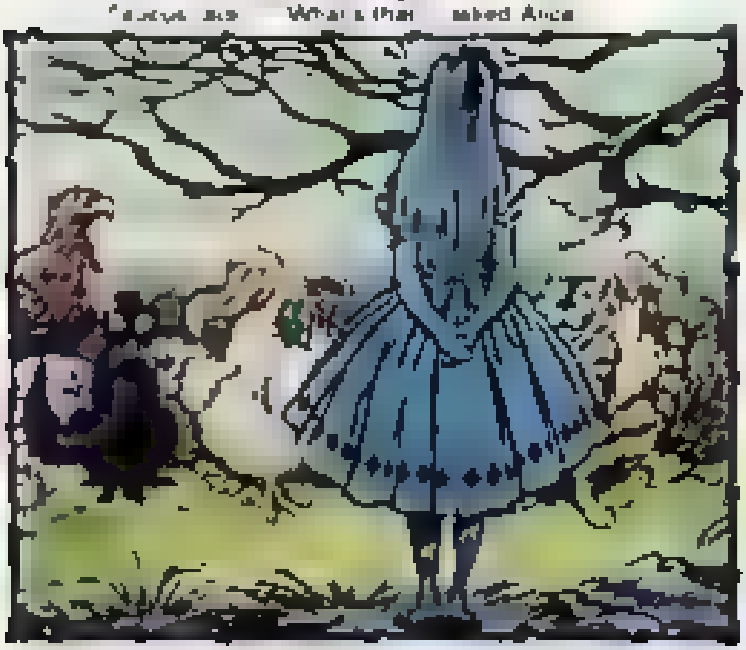
Alice in Wonderland

1 Alice and the queer-looking party of animals and birds were at last out of the pool and on dry land. They were all dripping wet, cross and uncomfortable. "Sit down, all of you," said the Mouse, "I mean to stop and I soon make you dry. Are you all ready now?"

2 The Mouse put on a [illegible] pose and said, "Silence all round if you please – this is the driest thing I know," he said. And he proceeded to tell them about history, which is a very dry subject indeed. But it did not seem to dry them at all.

3 "We're just as wet as ever," said the Dodo, as it rose to its feet. "The best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus race." "What is that?" asked Alice.

4 "Why, the best way to explain it is to do it," said the Dodo. So a circle was marked out and without so much as a "Go!" they all began running round and round, and in half an hour they were dry again.

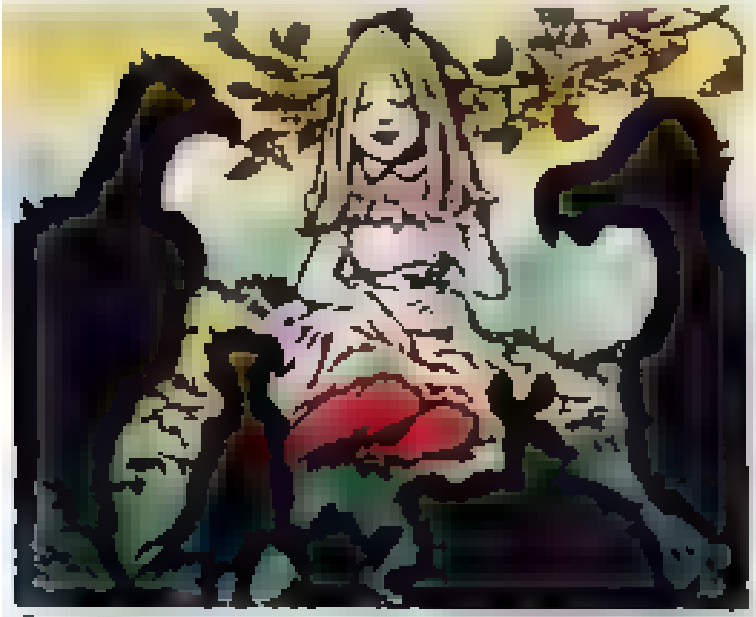


5 "The race is over," the Dodo suddenly called out. So they all stopped and crowded round, asking, "But who has won?" "Everybody has won, and all must have prizes," said the Dodo.

6 The whole party crowded round Alice, calling out, "Prizes! Prizes!" Alice put her hand in her pocket and pulled out a bag of little dainty sweets. These she handed out, and there was exactly one each for them.

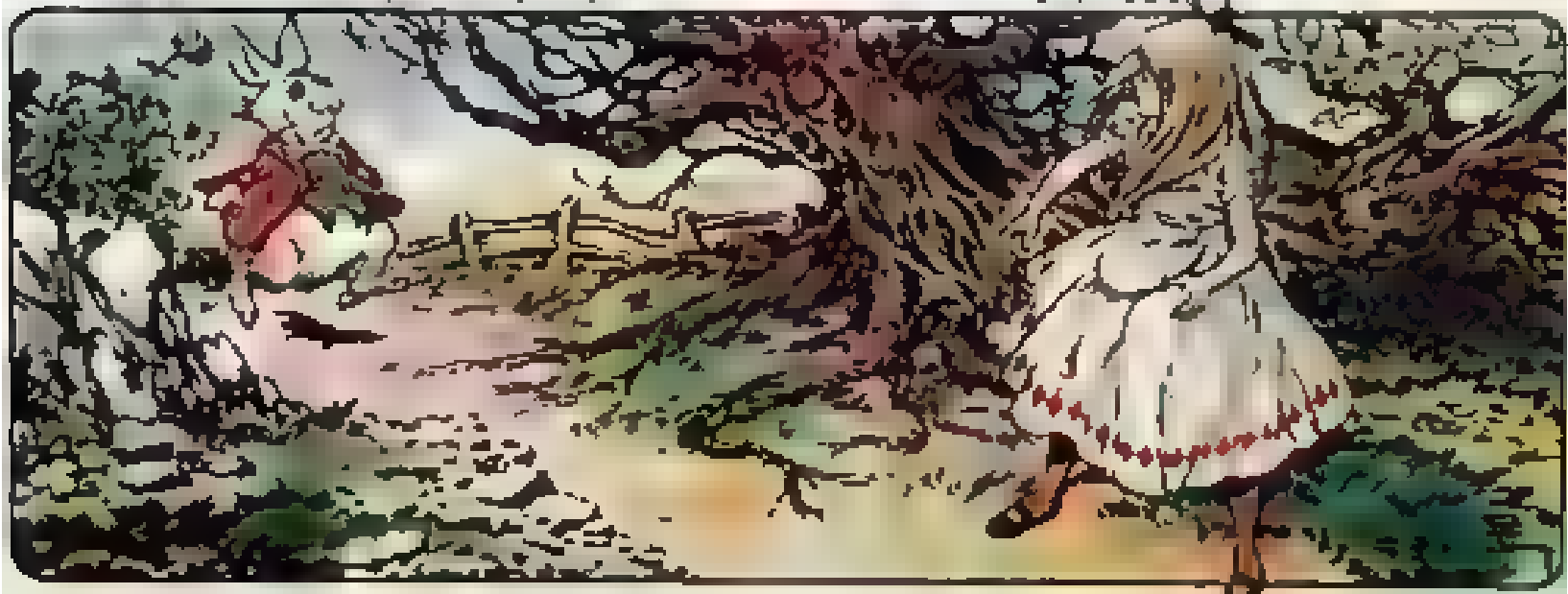
7 "She must have a place for herself, you know," the Mouse said. "Of course she must," agreed the Dodo very seriously. "What else have you got in your pocket?" "Only a thimble," Alice replied.

8 "Hand it over," said the Dodo. Then they all crowded round Alice while the Dodo very solemnly presented her with her own thimble. Alice thought it absurd as they clapped and cheered.



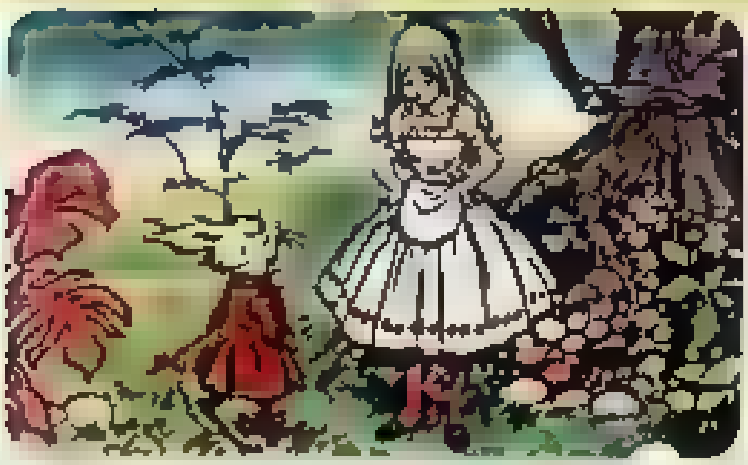
9 Happier now, she began to tell the creatures all about herself. "I wish I could show you the pet," she said. "He is at home," she said. "She's very sweet and her name is Dinah." "What is Dinah?" asked the Lory and Alice replied, "She's my cat."

10 Alice was always ready to talk about her pet cat. But just the mention of it caused a sensation in the party. All the creatures gave a gasp of horror and hurried away at once. So Alice was left all alone. "I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah," she said.



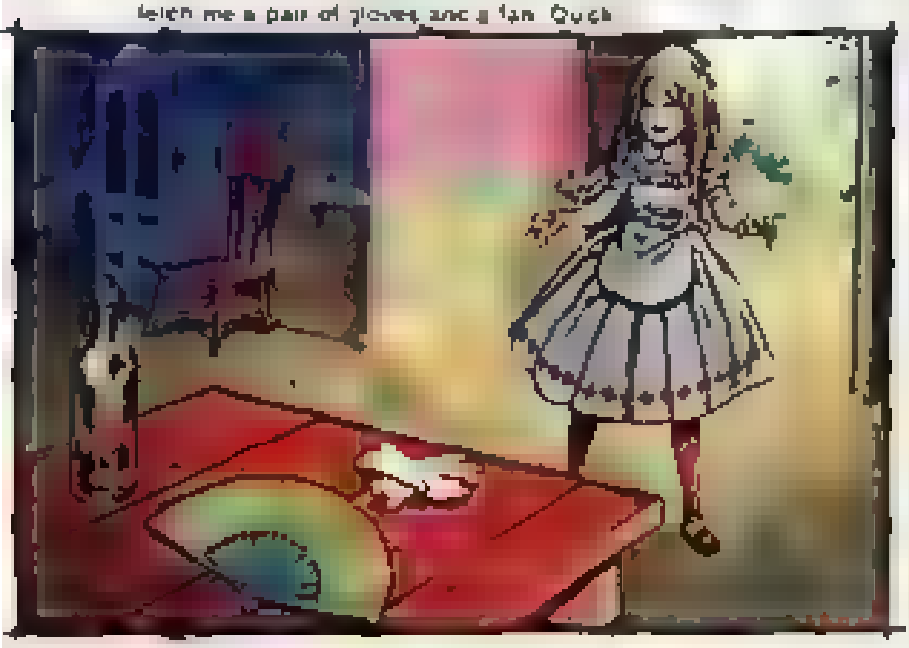
11 Now Alice began to cry again. But then she heard a little pattering of footsteps and looked up eagerly, half hoping that the friendly Mouse had changed its mind and was coming back to talk to her. But it was the White Rabbit looking for the gloves it had lost. "Here," said Alice

Alice in Wonderland

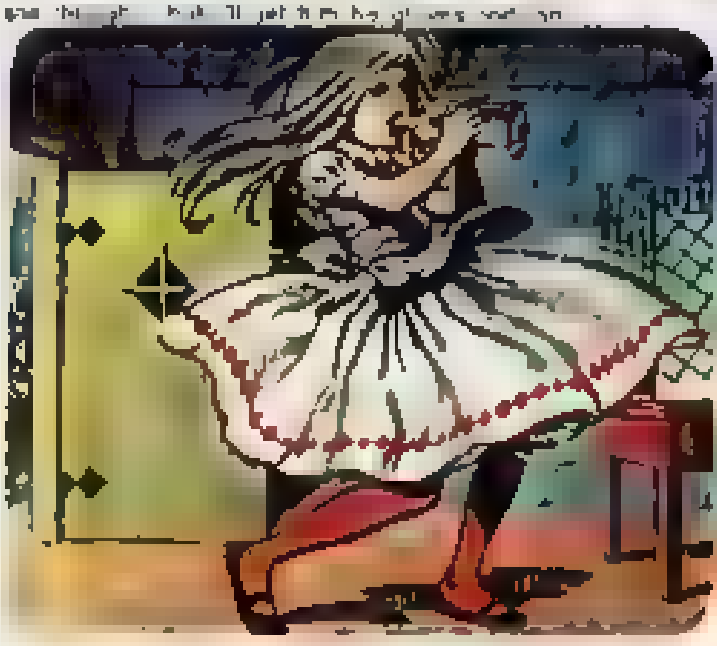


1 Oh my fur and whiskers, muttered the White Rabbit, as it came up to Alice. Mary Ann, run home this very moment and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan. Quick

2 Alice ran off in the direction of the house without trying to explain the mistake the White Rabbit had made. He mistook me for his housemaid, she thought. Well, I'll get them his gloves and fan



3 It seemed very queer to be going errands for a White Rabbit, but Alice hurried into the next little house without knocking and went upstairs. She found her way into a tidy little room and on a table were a fan, a pair of white gloves and a bottle. Ah, said Alice



4 "I know something interesting is sure to happen if I eat or drink anything, so I'll just see what this bottle does. I do hope it will make me grow again, for really I'm tired of being small!" She took a good long drink

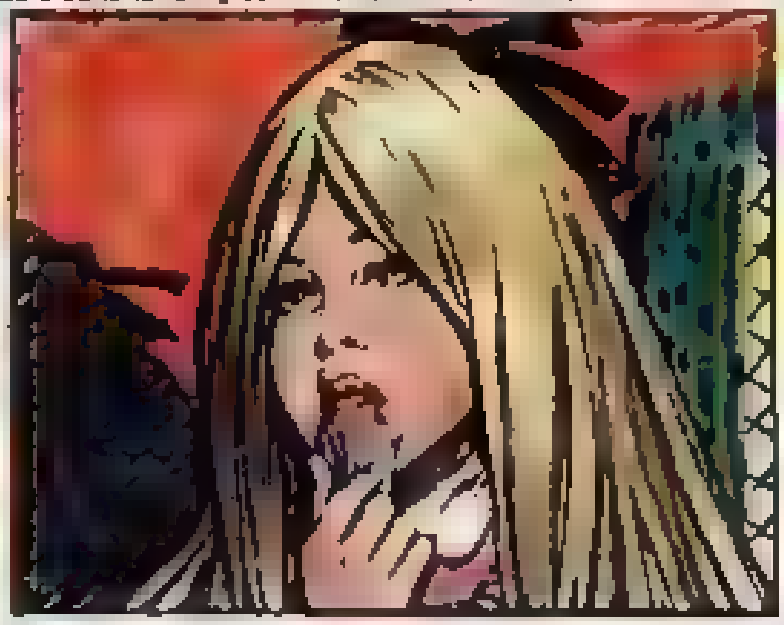
5 Alas, it was soon too late to wish she hadn't, for she grew and grew till she was too big for the room

6 Alice's huge hand came out through the window, much to the surprise of the White Rabbit and his gardener. "Pat, take it away!" squeaked the White Rabbit

7 Then Alice's foot stretched up and out of the chimney and she heard a ladder being placed in position and the sound of some sort of animal scratching on the chimney quite close

8 She gave one sharp kick and the first thing she heard was a loud shout "There goes Bill" the White Rabbit said so Bill the Lizard came tumbling down "Catch him some of you Hold him!

9 After a minute or two of silence outside Alice heard the White Rabbit say "A barrowful will do to begin with" Then a shower of little pebbles came in through the window Some hit Alice but she noticed that the pebbles were all turning into little cakes

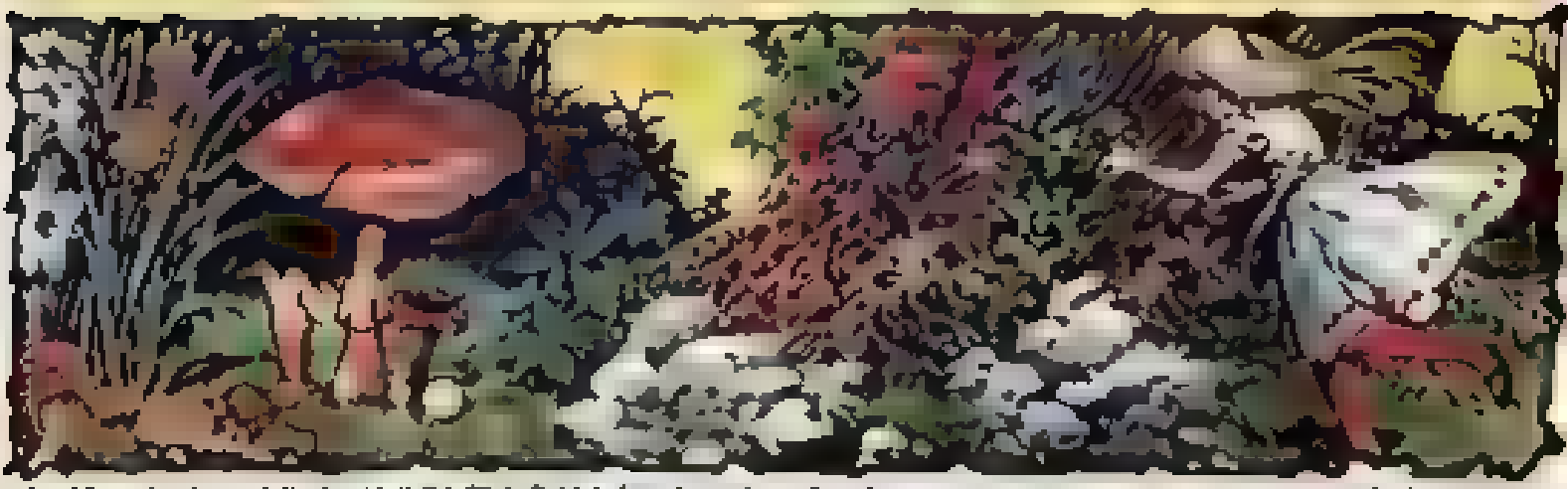


10 "If I eat one of these cakes" she thought "it's sure to make a change in my size and as I can't possibly make me larger it must make me smaller I suppose" So she ate one of the cakes and was delighted to find herself shrinking at once

11 As soon as she was small enough to get through the door Alice ran out of the house and hurried past the crowd of animals

12 "The first thing I've got to do is to find my way into that lovely garden" Alice thought

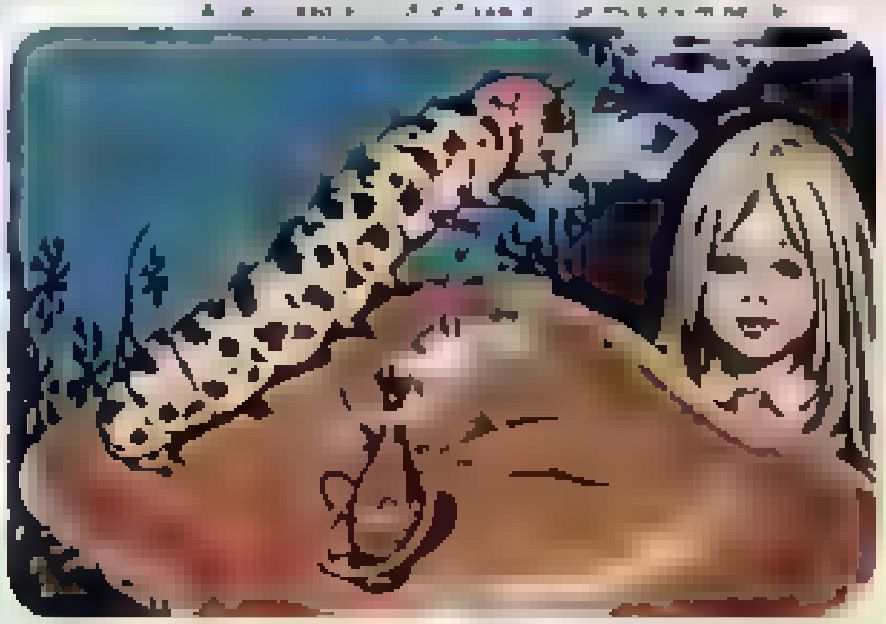
Alice in Wonderland



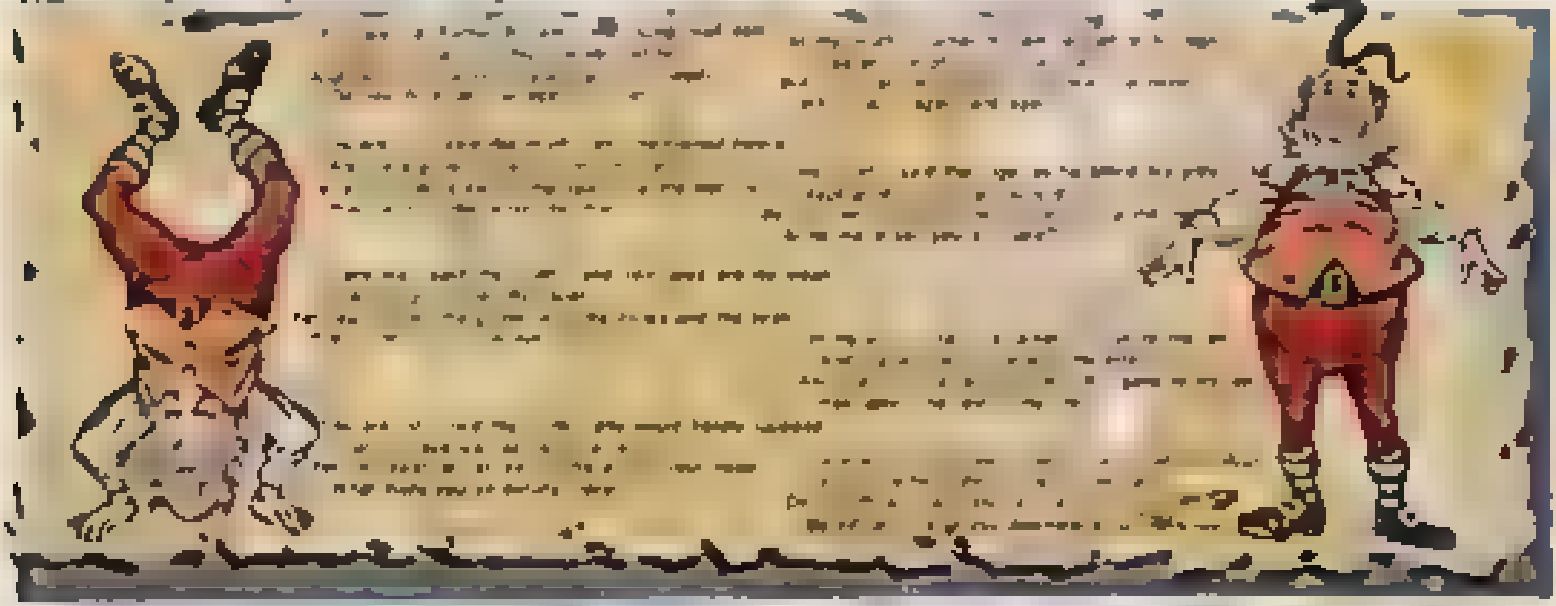
1 After adventures in the house of the White Rabbit, Alice hurried away through the woods, hoping to find her way into the velvety garden, but she had no real idea how to get there.

2 Suddenly, she got to grow up again. "I'm tired," she said. "I'd rather be caught to eat or drink something or other, but the question is what?"

3 When she had looked under [illegible] and on the [illegible] behind it, she thought she might as well [illegible] and see [illegible] was on the other side. She [illegible] of a large caterpillar sitting on the top [illegible]

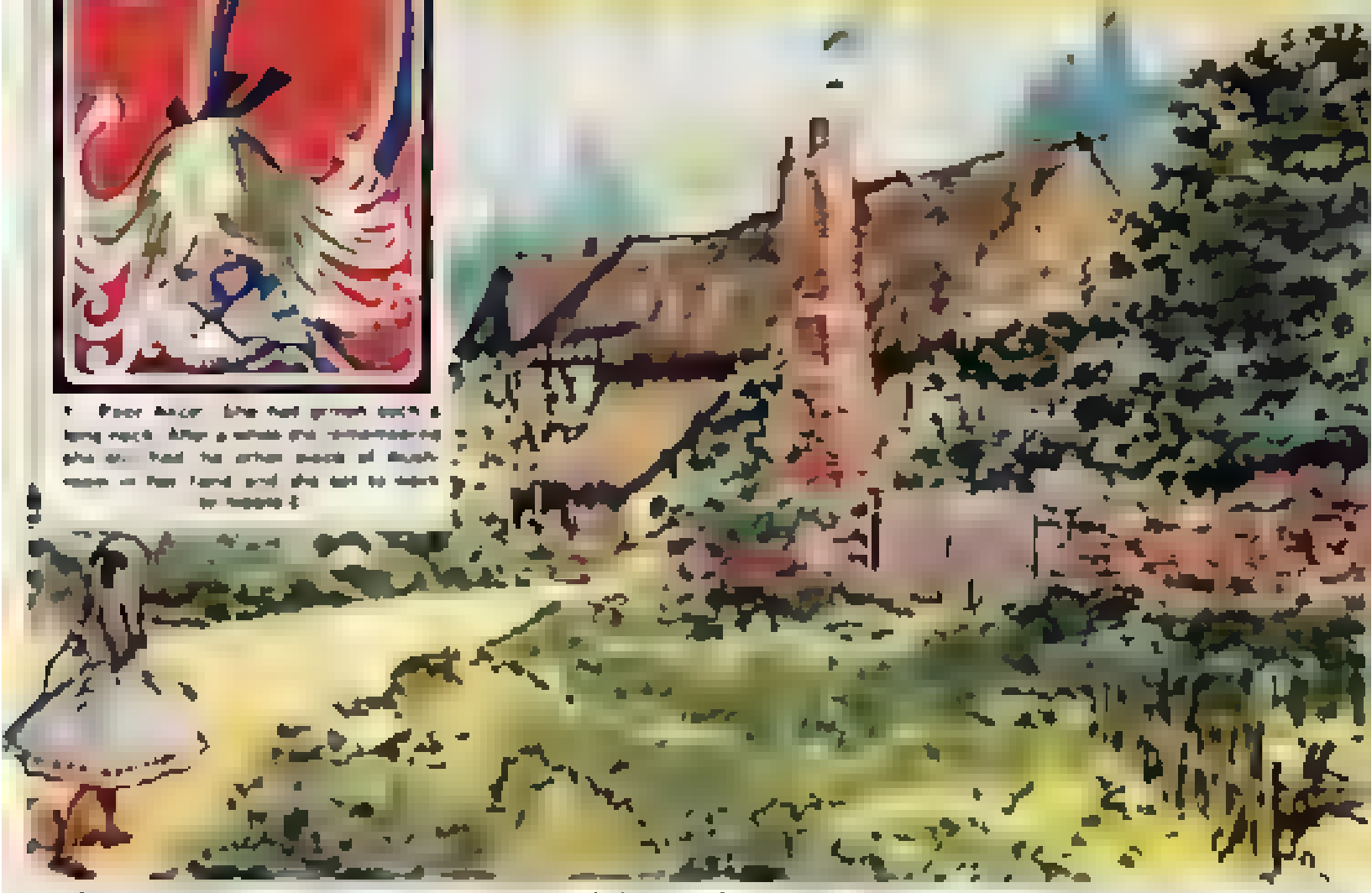


4 Taking a hookah pipe out of its mouth, the caterpillar addressed her in a sleepy voice. "Who are you?" [illegible] "I hardly know, sir, just at present," Alice replied, [illegible] "[illegible] I keep the same size for [illegible] minutes together."



5 [illegible] "[illegible] you are, Old Father William," [illegible] a green. Alice said she would try, folded her hands together and began repeating the words. "The jolly young man, sir, [illegible]

6 "[illegible] old man," said the caterpillar. "You don't [illegible] right." [illegible] beginning to end. There [illegible] was a silence for quite a few minutes. The caterpillar was the first to speak. "[illegible] side makes you taller, the other shorter," [illegible]



ALICE in WONDERLAND

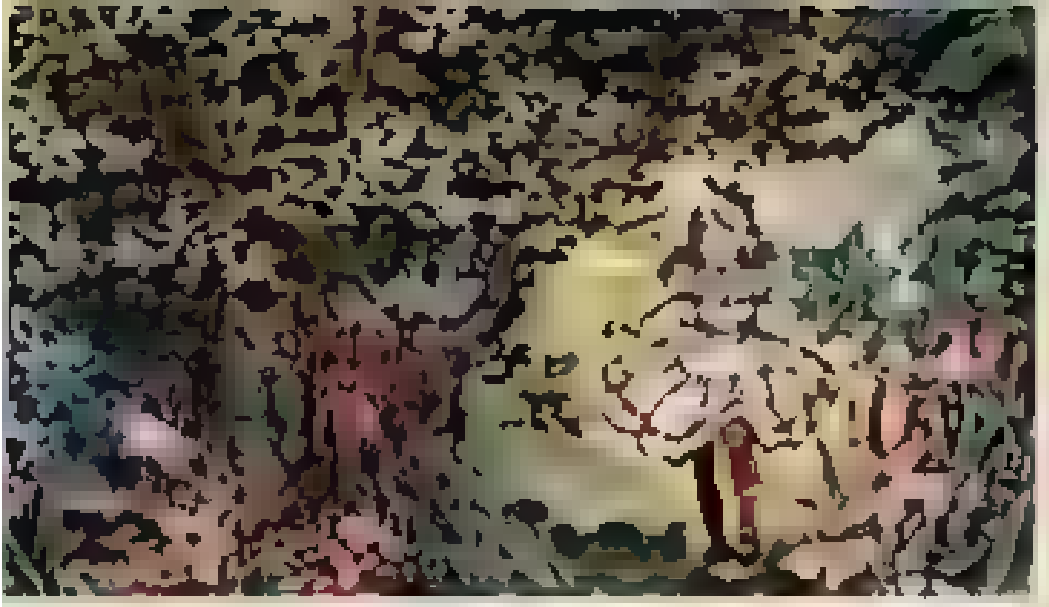
1. Poor Alice! She had grown such a long neck. After a while she remembered she still had the other piece of mushroom in her hand and she set to work to nibble it.

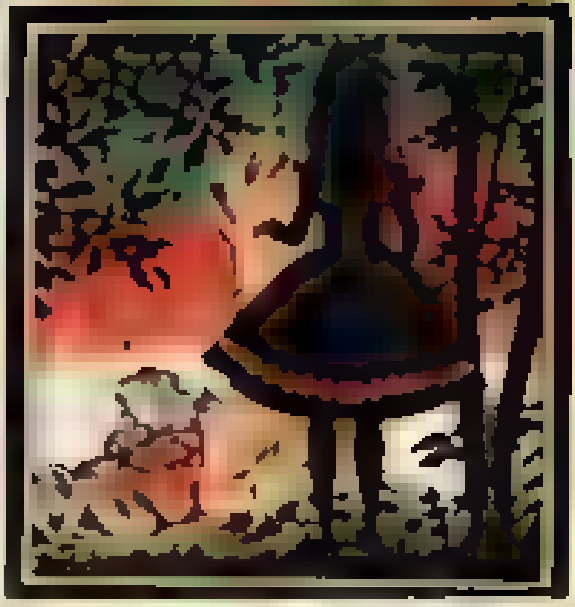
2. Soon she brought herself down to her usual height. At first it felt quite strange. "How puzzling all these changes are!" thought Alice. "The next thing is to get to that lovely garden."

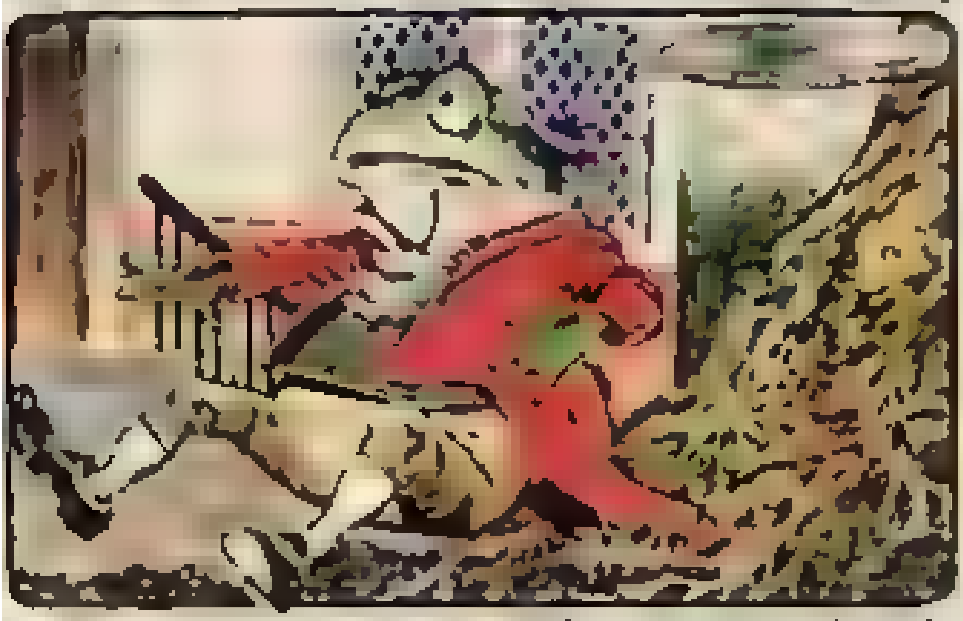
3. As she was walking she suddenly came upon an open space with a splendid house in it. "Who can live there?" wondered she aloud [illegible] herself. "I [illegible] find the way to the garden."

4. For a moment she paused at the front door and suddenly a footman in livery ran out of the wood. Alice considered him to be a footman by the way he was dressed, for by the [illegible] he looked she would have called him a fish. He [illegible] without so much as by your leave or anything else, that she both [illegible] at the door.

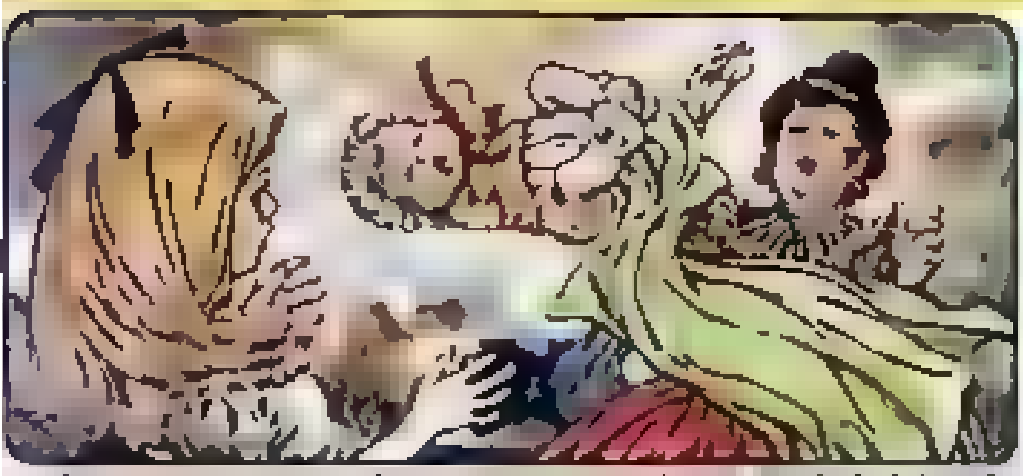
5. It was opened by another footman with a round face and large eyes like a frog. The Fish-Footman produced a letter and he handed it over to the other, saying in a solemn tone, "For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet." The Frog-Footman repeated in the same solemn tone, only changing the words a little, "From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to play croquet."







ALICE in WONDERLAND

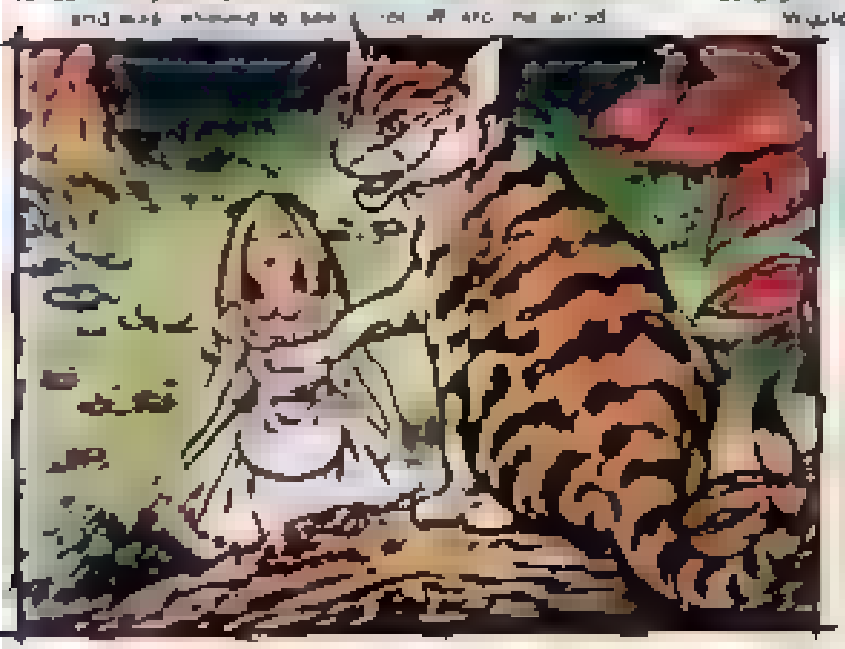


[illegible] ing things at everybody else—and have it ready for the Duchess when she asks for it. You may nurse it a bit if it cries," she said. "I must go and get ready to play croquet with the queen." When Alice caught the baby [illegible] a pig, or [illegible]

[illegible] solitude, but it grunted again, and she looked anxiously into its face. Its nose was more like a [illegible]

3. "If you're going to turn into a pig, I have no more to do with you," said Alice. She set the baby down and was relieved to see it trot off into the wood.

4. Alice began to think up all other children she knew who might do very well as pigs—and became startled to see Cheshire cat sitting in a nearby tree. "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" she asked.



5. "In that direction," said the Cheshire cat, waving its paw around toward a hatter. "Over there lives a March Hare. You can visit whichever one you like. Believe me, they are both quite mad."

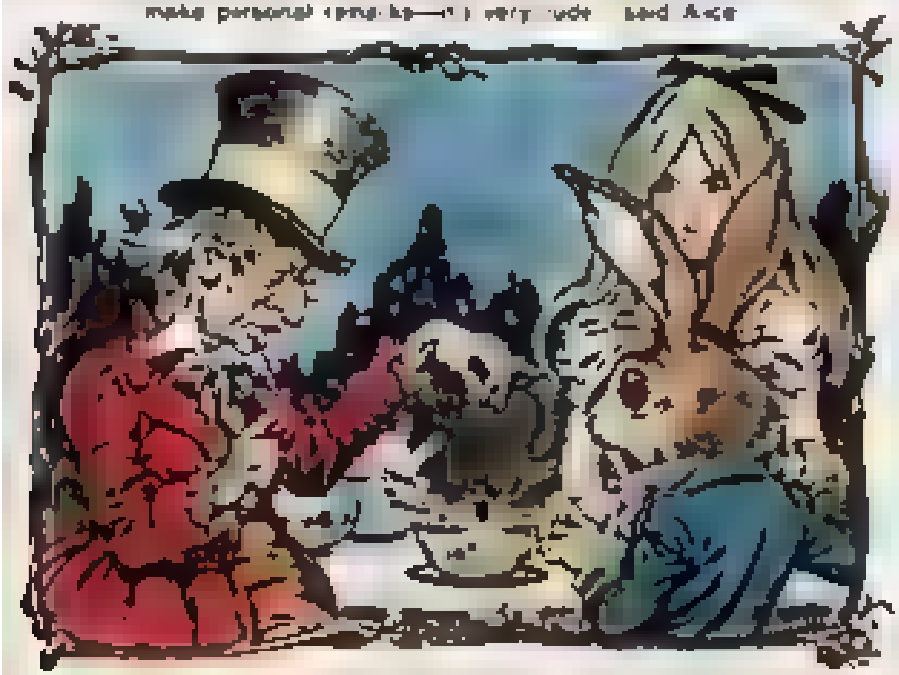
6. Having said this, the Cheshire cat started to disappear. It went quite slowly. Its body went first and it ended up with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had vanished.

"It's the most [illegible] thing I've ever seen," thought Alice as she walked on. Soon she came to the house of the March Hare who sat at a table with the Hatter and a Dormouse fast asleep.

"No room! No room!" they shouted out when they saw Alice coming. "There's plenty of room," said Alice indignantly. "The whole of the side of the table is empty," and she sat down.

"It's very civil of you to sit down without being invited," said the March Hare. "Your hair wants cutting," said the Hatter. "You shouldn't make personal remarks—it's very rude," said Alice.

"What day of the month is it?" asked the March Hare as he took a watch out of his pocket and shook it. "It's two days wrong." "Shouldn't put butter in it," said the Hatter.



He took the watch and then dipped it into his cup of tea. "And some crumbs must have got in," as well as the bread-knife, he grumbled.

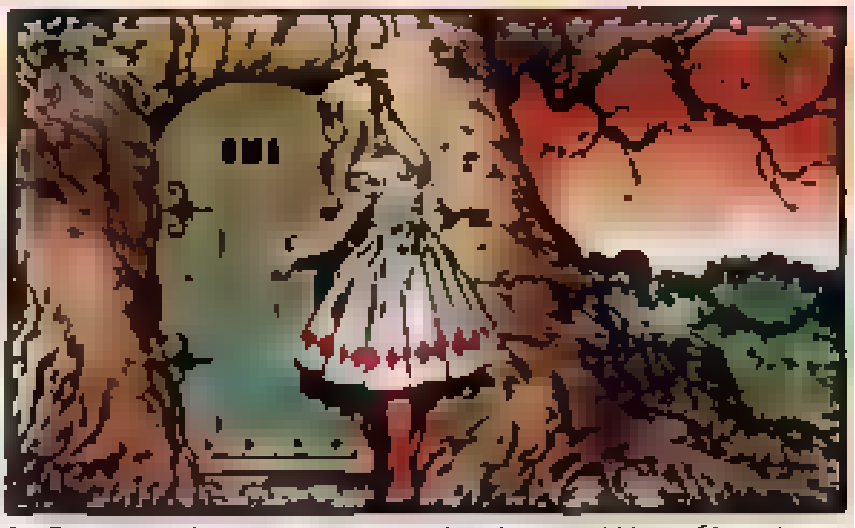
Alice decided to go and the last thing she saw was the Hatter pouring tea over the Dormouse.

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY No. 97 • 19th DECEMBER 1970 PRICE 1 ⊕ 7½p

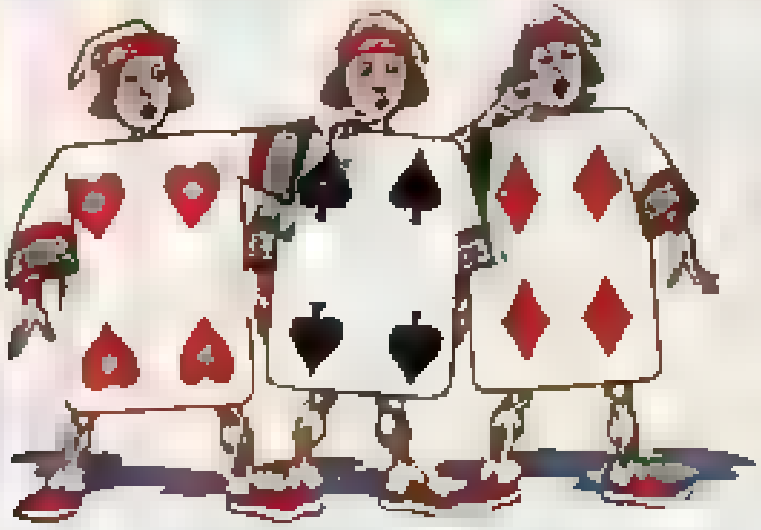
ALICE in WONDERLAND

1 "Really," said Alice, when the Hatter poured hot tea over the sleeping Dormouse's nose, "I don't think——" "Then you shouldn't talk," said the Hatter, as he and the March Hare then popped the dormouse into the teapot.



2 This piece of rudeness was more than Alice could bear. She got up in great disgust and walked away. When a little way off she noticed a tree which had a door in it. "How very curious," she thought. "I may as well go in at once, but I cannot imagine where it might lead me to."

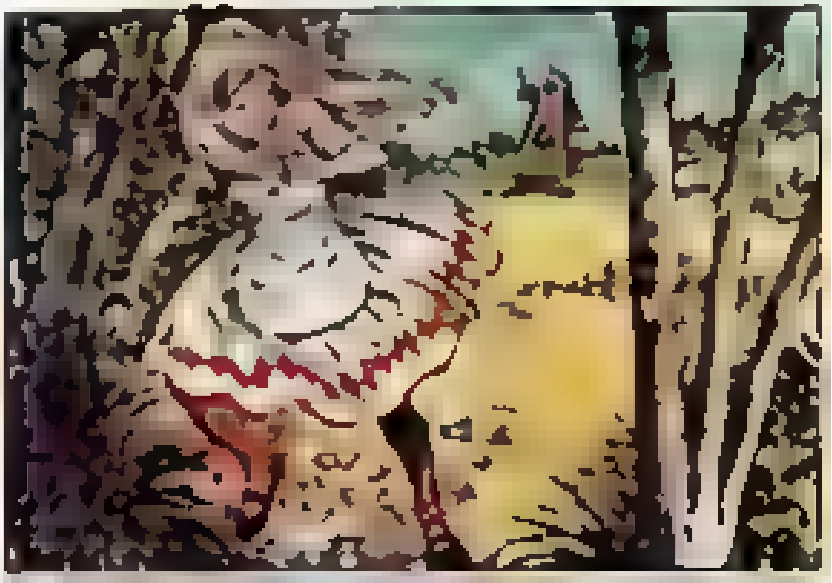
3 She walked down a passage and found herself at last in the beautiful garden she had been trying to visit. In it was a large rose-tree. The roses on it were white, but there were three gardeners busy painting them red. "How strange," thought Alice to herself. They look like playing cards.



4 Very curious, Alice went nearer to watch them, and just as she came up to them one piece of them dropped their paint brushes and stood still as though with sudden fright. "The Queen! The Queen is coming!" one of them shouted.

5 The three gardeners instantly threw themselves flat on their faces as the Royal procession arrived. In front were the King and Queen of Hearts. Behind them marching in step came soldiers and like the gardeners they were all shaped like playing cards.

6 Some of the soldiers were decorated with diamond markings, others with hearts and clubs and spades. They carried spears all popped with pointed diamonds, and they looked very splendid as they marched behind the proud King and Queen of Hearts.



ALICE in WONDERLAND

1 Alice was still thinking about the Queen of Hearts and the [illegible] the Mock Turtle [illegible] Gryphon.

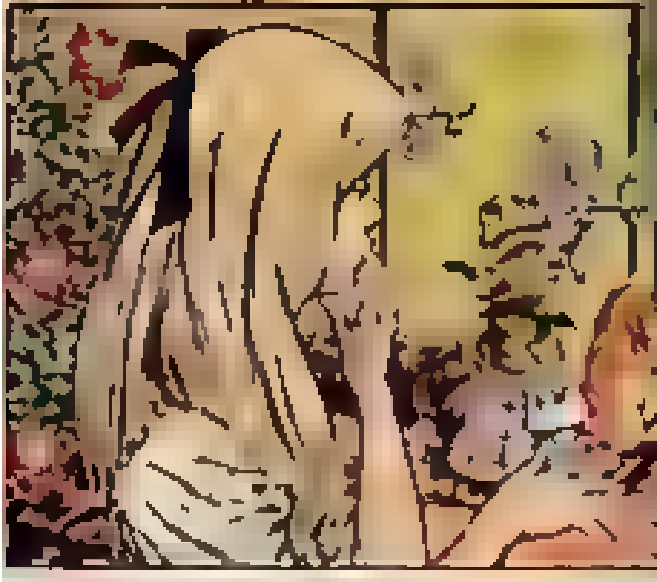
2 The Gryphon [illegible] Alice looking very interested.

3 [illegible] Alice began to say [illegible] Mock Turtle [illegible] Alice.

4 [illegible] Gryphon [illegible] Alice who watched them and was most interested.

5 [illegible] Mock Turtle [illegible] Rabbit [illegible] Alice.

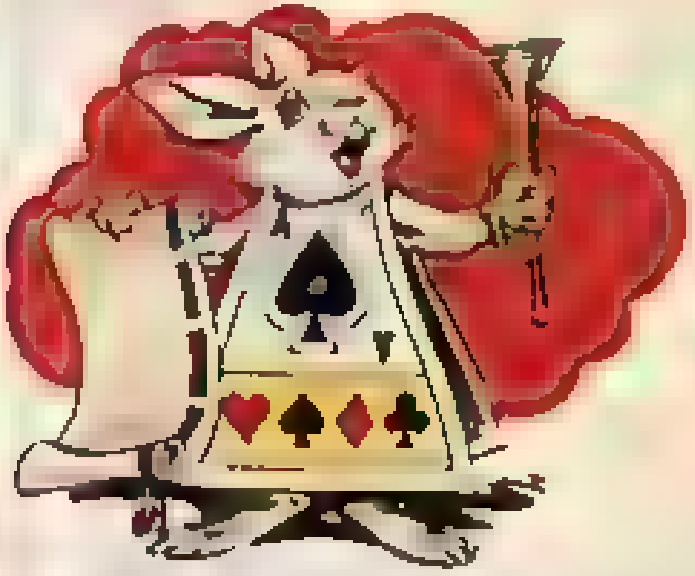
6 [illegible] Gryphon [illegible] Alice [illegible] Alice [illegible]



7 When they reached the courthouse a great crowd was going on. [illegible] This was the trial. The White Rabbit was blowing out as he unfolded [illegible] "Take your places everybody."

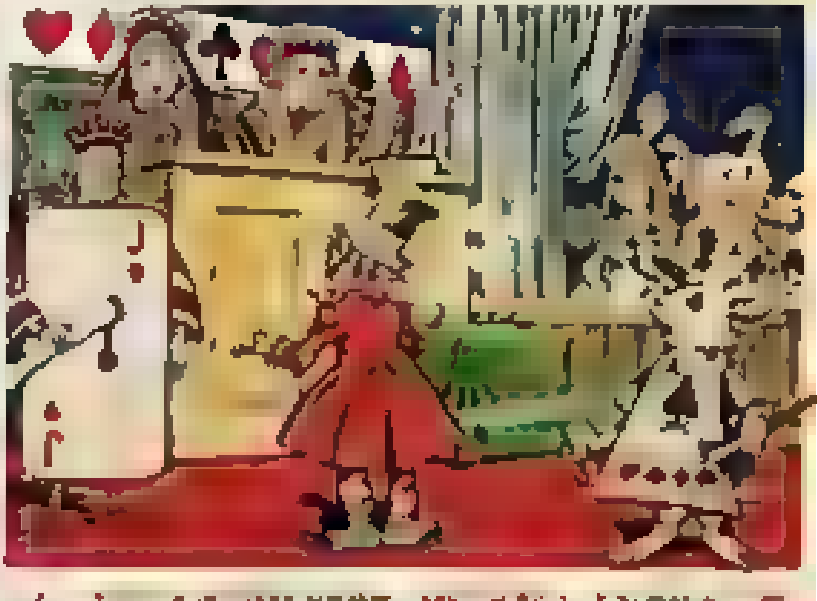
8 Alice glanced round to see the Cheshire Cat's grinning face. [illegible] "Shall I go and fetch it?" [illegible] "I don't know what the trial is going about but [illegible] ought to go inside."

9 The King and Queen of Hearts were seated on their thrones when Alice [illegible] The King's face [illegible] was [illegible] a large [illegible] which [illegible] "Come and have [illegible]" said Alice hungrily.



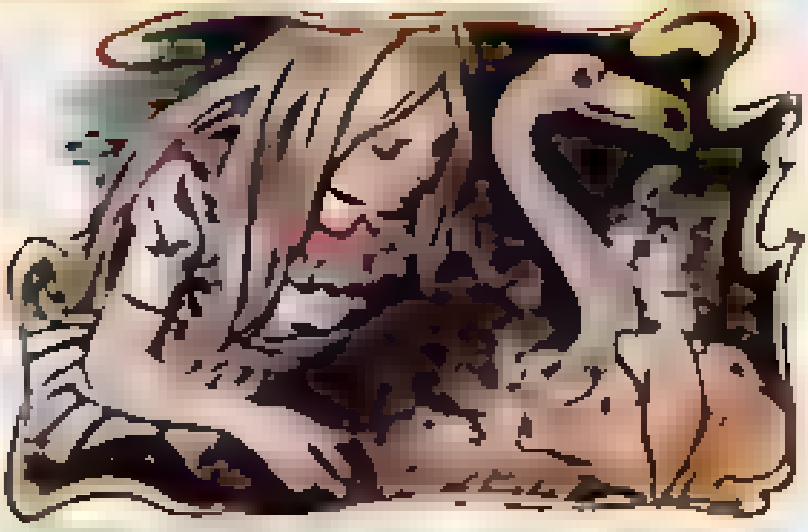
10 "Read the accusation," said the King. The White Rabbit [illegible] "The Queen of Hearts, she made some [illegible] on a summer day. The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts and took them quite away." Four witnesses

11 [illegible] the Mad Hatter, who [illegible] "I wasn't [illegible] the tea, I was [illegible] the butter, and it was the March Hare who said it was butter, [illegible] I had finished my bit, which I was [illegible] and [illegible]"



12 [illegible] "Bring the jurymen on their benches," [illegible] "Two clerks [illegible] the jurymen [illegible] Alice [illegible]

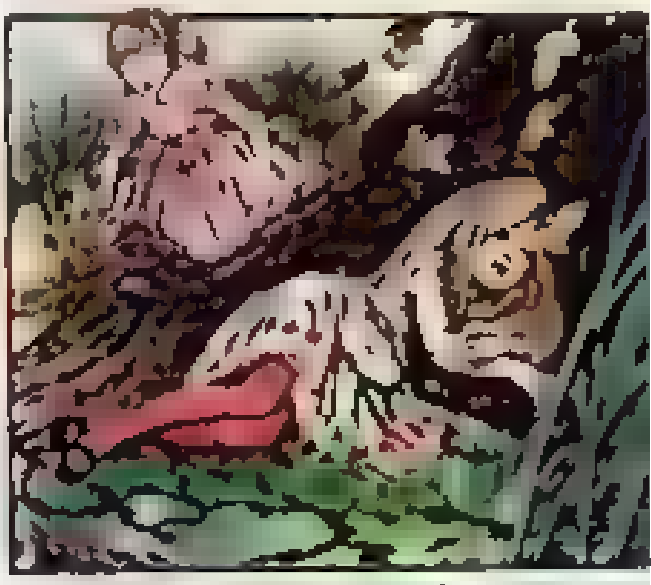
Alice in Wonderland



7 Alice suddenly felt very brave. But as she spoke these words everything in the room seemed to change in an instant and Alice found herself standing in front of a mighty pack of playing cards. Some were kings and queens and knaves and seven and all the rest of them—and for a moment so was she, as she was startled.

8 "But you can't hurt me," she heard herself saying. "You're only a pack of playing cards and playing cards can't hurt anybody." Nevertheless, she ducked around and gave the pack a good blow and sent you all tumbling over.

9 The playing cards fell in rows on the bed above her and Alice gave a little scream, half of fright and half of anger. They were fluttering on her hair and she lay down on the bed to keep out of their way. She found one the King and Queen of Hearts above her and wondered who would happen next.



10 It was all a sudden surprise. The growing [illegible] exhausted and Alice found herself lying on a [illegible] beside a tree with strong [illegible] the branches hanging down on her face.

11 Then her sister started up and gently brushed some of the fallen leaves away from her face. "Wake up, Alice dear," she said. "What a long sleep you have had!" "Oh, I've had such a curious dream!" Alice replied. Then she told her sister, as well as she could remember, all the strange adventures.

12 A pleasant one, a curious dream, dear, said her sister. But now it is growing late and we must run in to tea. So Alice got up and ran off, thinking while she ran, as well she might, what a wonderful dream it had been and how it had taken her all along adventures in this place called Wonderland.

Jesús Blasco

Once Upon a Time

9 Jan. 1971 #100 - 27 Feb. 1971 #107

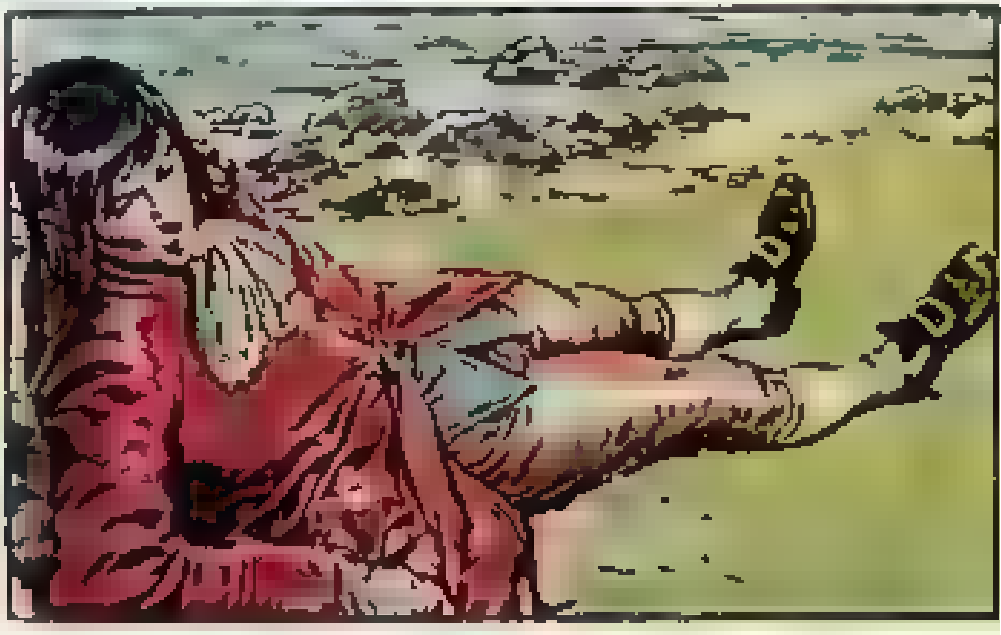
Once Upon a Time

Gulliver's Travels

1 It was early in the month of May 1699 that the sailing ship Antelope left England on a voyage to the East Indies. On board was Lemuel Gulliver, the ship's doctor, and all went well until, somewhere in the Indian Ocean, there arose a terrible storm.

2 The wind was so fierce and the sea so rough that the ship began to sink. There was nothing the captain could do to save it, and when the masts started to snap off he ordered everyone aboard to leap into the sea and try to save themselves as they could.

3 Gulliver was among those who leapt into the sea and all night long he struggled to remain afloat in the huge waves. When morning came he found himself alone, floating on a calm sea. All the other people from the ship had vanished.



4 "What will become of me now?" he thought to himself. Gulliver kept on swimming towards an island and after a struggle he dragged himself ashore. Thankful to be safe on firm ground again, he sank down. "I can see no sign of houses or people living here," he gasped. "But I am too tired to worry about that now. What I most need is a long sleep to revive me and give me strength."

5 He must have slept soundly for several hours. When he woke up Gulliver tried to rise but found himself unable to move. His arms and legs, and even his hair, were pinned down by thin ropes.

6 In a little time he felt something moving across his chest and he saw that it was a tiny human creature, not six inches tall. There were others around him and they climbed on him like ants.

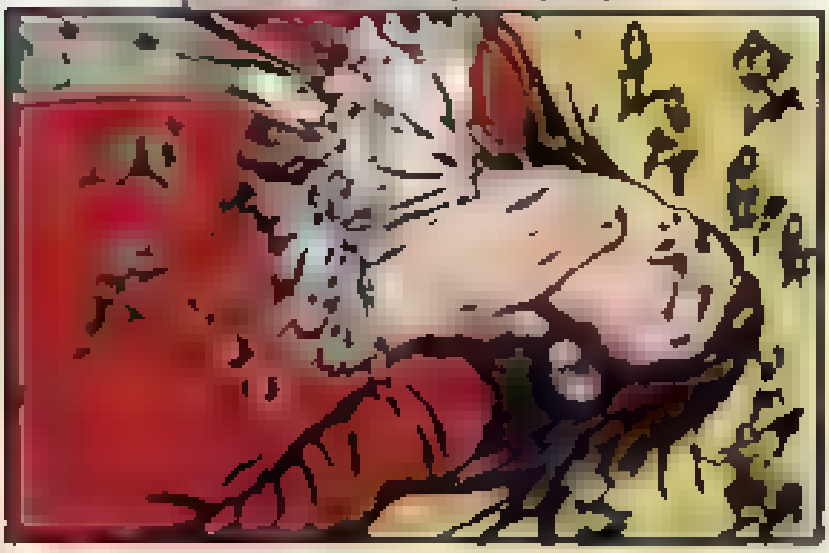
7 "Shoo! Shoo—go away!" he shouted and the roar of his voice was so loud that the tiny figures jumped off and ran away. But soon some of them came back and loosed off a shower of arrows which pricked Gulliver like needles.

8 He decided it was wise to lie still and the arrows stopped coming at him, so he opened his mouth and pointed to it to show he wanted food.

9 The tiny creatures seemed to understand that Gulliver was very hungry and at once about a hundred of them eagerly hurried away.

10 They came back after a time, bringing baskets and trays of food and barrels of wine.

Gulliver's Travels



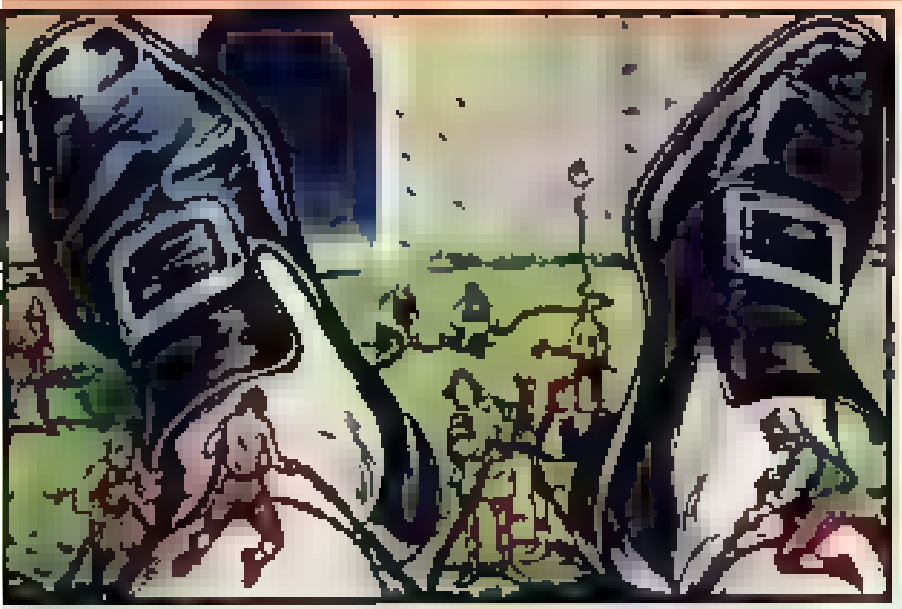
[illegible] brought alongside the sleeping giant they set about the task of tying him up. [illegible] They did with the aid of about eighty giants and their [illegible] Some hundreds of their strongest men were needed to pull on the ropes and a task about [illegible] the wooden frame.

[illegible] Gulliver was [illegible] and they had left them as they had brought up dozens of the king's chariots and [illegible] about four and a half inches high. These were harnessed to the frame and then they were ready to drag Gulliver towards the capital [illegible] about half a mile away.

9 Hop's voice would only be a short distance for ordinary humans, but for the Lilliputians it was a long and hard journey. They could not move going at more than a few inches a minute.

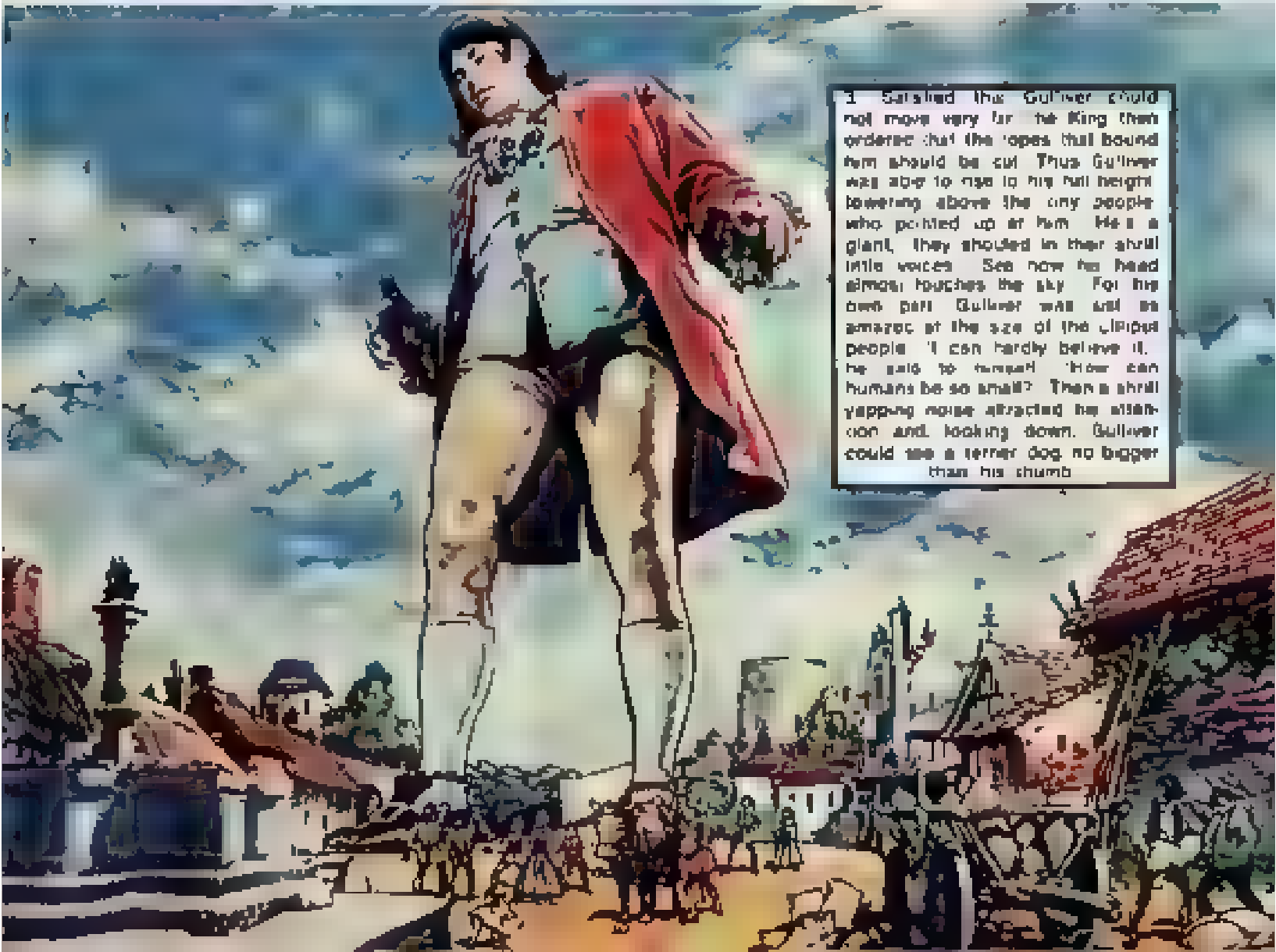
10 All night long they travelled. He whimpered from time to time and groaned under the weight of cushions and a wet bandage before they came within sight of the city. By this time Gulliver was quite awake and wondering what might happen to him. [illegible]

Gulliver's Travels



1 Poor Gulliver was still lying flat on a sort of sledge on wheels, tied down by many ropes, and after much pulling and puffing the little people of Lilliput brought him to their city. There they halted outside an old temple, the largest building they had. It was to be Gulliver's home.

2 Naturally, the tiny humans were afraid of the big giant they had found on the seashore and they set about putting chains round Gulliver's ankles fixing them to the wall. Then the King came along to look at the huge prisoner.



3 Satisfied thus Gulliver could not move very far. The King then ordered that the ropes that bound him should be cut. Thus Gulliver was able to rise to his full height towering above the tiny people who pointed up at him. 'He's a giant,' they shouted in their shrill little voices. 'See how his head almost touches the sky.' For his own part Gulliver was just as amazed at the size of the Lilliput people. 'I can hardly believe it,' he said to himself. 'How can humans be so small?' Then a shrill yapping noise attracted his attention and, looking down, Gulliver could see a terrier dog no bigger than his thumb.

4 When night had come a glanced to [illegible] Gulliver decided to [illegible] shelter and warmth inside the old temple. It was then that he realised that being a giant in a land where everything was so small was not very comfortable. To get inside to sleep he had to wriggle and squirm.

5 Next day, the King arrived to see how his huge visitor had spent the night and from the inside of the temple came a deep growl. Later the King said the King. It seems that he did not sleep too well.

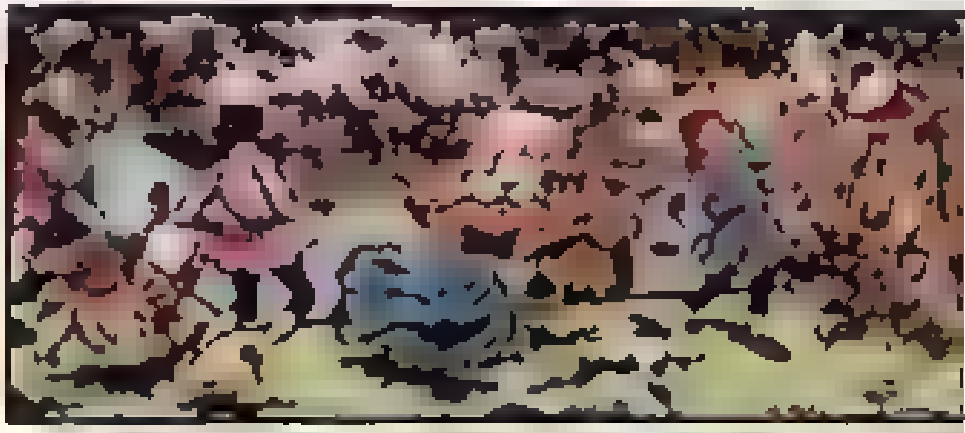
6 The King could see what was wrong. In his crumpled pocket Gulliver was holding the close door of the temple a little hard. So he at once gave orders to his people that a bed was to be made of sufficient size to give the Man Mountain a comfortable place.

7 So that the hundred of the people's beds were brought out starts and these were pushed into the temple and then squashed together to form one great big bed. It was hard work for the little people and Gulliver was very grateful for their efforts.

8 When the King and Queen came to visit him on the following day they found him looking very cheerful. Gulliver listened most carefully to their voices to try and pick up the language.

9 Among the first words he learned were those which helped him to ask the King if he could have the chains taken from his legs and he was delighted when the King agreed.

Gulliver's Travels



7 Gulliver could not help chuckling to himself. But there was one object in his trouser-pocket that they had not yet discovered, and he pulled it out, thinking that it would cause even more excitement for them.

8 It was Gulliver's watch. To the Lilliputians it appeared as a great engine of some kind, made of metal and marked on one side by strange figures. They started back in surprise. 'This mighty engine makes a noise,' gasped the little King. 'What is it for?'

9 Gulliver did his best to explain that it was his watch and that it enabled him to tell the time. The King and his little people looked at all the things for a long while. They were things of great wonder, the like of which they had never seen.

10 But then the curious King demanded to be shown the working of the pistols. 'Very well, Your Majesty,' Gulliver agreed, 'but I must warn you not to be afraid.' He was very careful to load the pistols with only a small amount of gunpowder.

11 Then he let them off in the air. They made no loud but harmless bangs, which caused sudden panic among the Lilliputians.

12 Several fell down as though struck dead and the rest went rushing away. 'Come back,' said Gulliver.

Gulliver's Travels

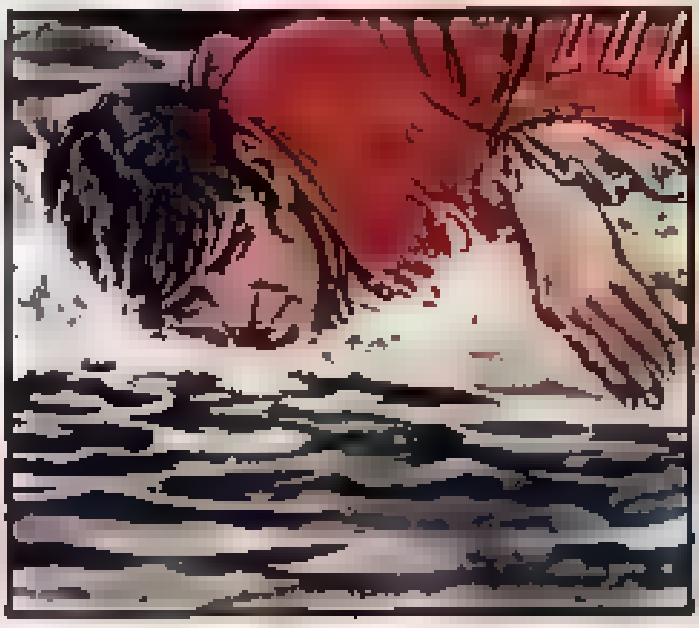
1 After showing the tiny people of the island of Lilliput what he had in his pockets causing them great wonder and astonishment Gulliver was given his freedom to go wherever he wished He too looked in great wonder and astonishment at the miniature cattle never tiring of watching them grazing

2 One day when Gulliver was standing beside a chair the little King of Lilliput and his ministers rode up and came as close to his ear as they could I seek your help on a serious matter said the King

3 We have enemies on the island of Blefuscu and we have been in a state of war for many years It started when we disagreed about which end of a boiled egg should be broken first said the King We say the smaller end, but they say the bigger end

4 Gulliver thought it was a silly argument to go to war about but he kept a serious face and looked out over the sea Is that the island of Blefuscu yonder? he asked The King nodded Yes he agreed They have a fleet of warships ready to attack us

5 Do not be alarmed Your Majesty said Gulliver wading into the sea I will do my best to help you, because you have been kind to me



6 The island of Blefuscu was only half a mile away not a great distance to Gulliver, who easily swam it

7 In less than half an hour the Man Mountain as the Lilliput people called him arrived in the harbour of Blefuscu and stood up in the middle of the fleet of enemy ships. And the sight of his huge figure towering above them gave the Blefuscu men a fright.

8 They had never seen such a giant before and many of them jumped from the decks of the warships in terror to swim to the shore if they could. Others remained aboard shivering and shaking with fright. "I'm not here to hurt you," cried Gulliver.

9 The roar of his voice made them squeal even more but taking no notice of their struggles Gulliver scooped them up from the sea and put them back on board the ships as gently as he could. They ran through his fingers like a swarm of scared ants.

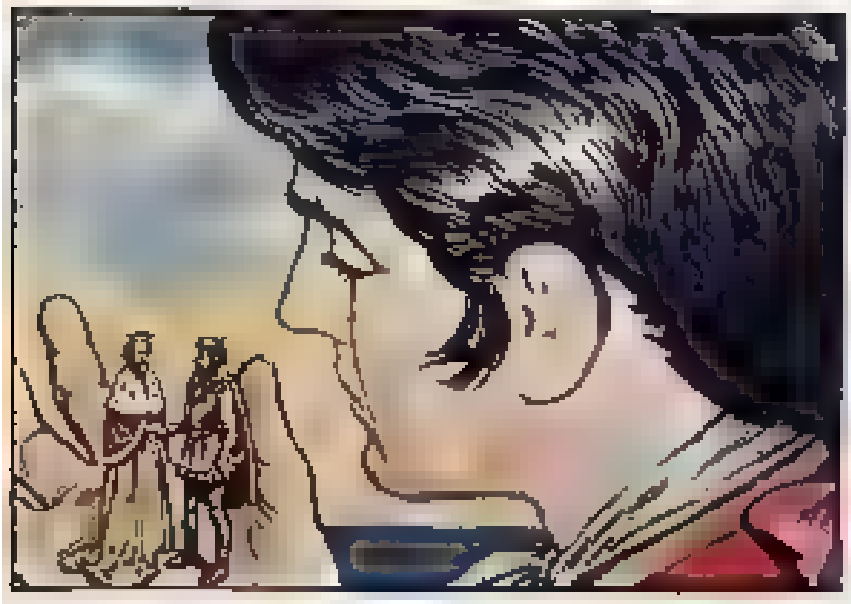
10 Then when there were no more to be rescued Gulliver took hold of the mooring lines of the ships and broke them. To him of course the ships hawsers were no tougher than string. He smiled to himself at the thought of being a giant of such power.

11 "Your plan was to sail to Lilliput and so you shall, my friends," he chuckled and he started to walk through the sea.

12 Dragging the warships behind him like a fleet of toy boats Gulliver headed back towards Lilliput.

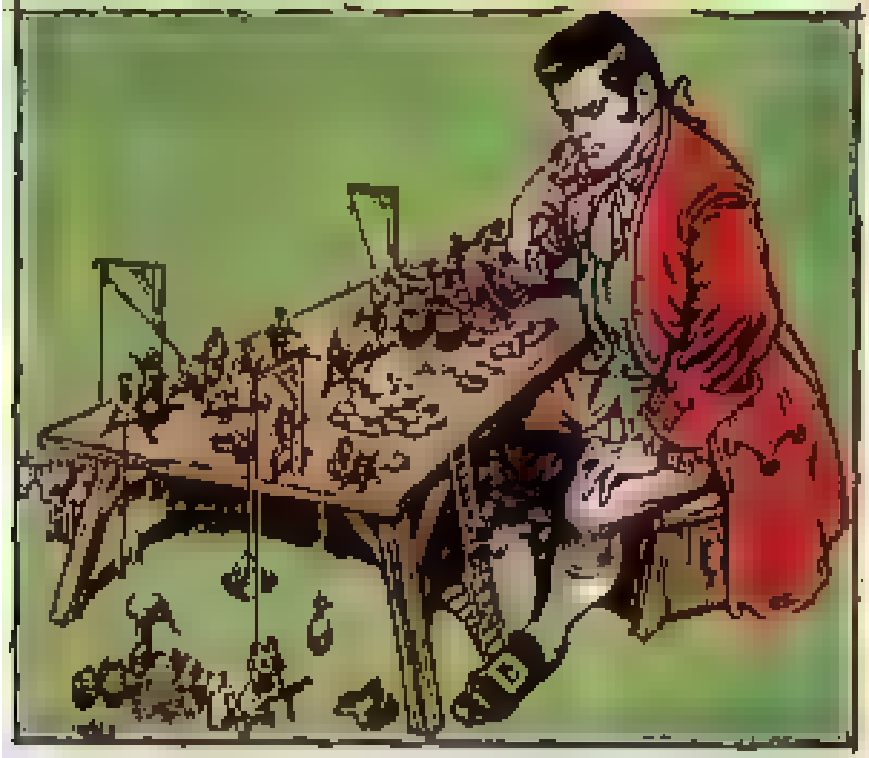
Gulliver's Travels

The King of Lilliput and all his courtiers were waiting at the royal port, anxious to see the result of Gulliver's trip to the enemy island of Blefuscu. They saw the warships moving towards them, but for a while did not see Gulliver, who was up to his neck in water at the deepest part of the sea. The enemy ships are attacking us, groaned the King, until the giant figure of Gulliver came striding into the shallow water and was seen to be dragging the entire fleet of enemy warships behind him. To Gulliver the ships were no larger than the toy boats he had made when a young boy.



2 A great cheer went up from the tiny people. "Our enemies have been defeated, thanks to the Man Mountain," they shouted. But the first thing Gulliver did was to make sure that the King of Lilliput and the King of Blefuscu got together on his hand and made peace.

3 So the war between the people of Blefuscu and the people of Lilliput came to an end, and in the months that followed Gulliver was able to wander around the island, seeing how the tiny humans lived and what their customs were.



4 Bit by bit Gulliver began to feel a little unhappy about the trouble his was causing to the little people for it needed three hundred cooks to prepare a meal and took up much of their food

5 Though he was always treated with kindness Gulliver began to get homesick Then, one day a messenger arrived on horseback with news about a great ship he had just seen

6 Excited, Gulliver hurried to a creek and there to his great joy he saw a ship's lifeboat which had floated in on the tide It was battered and weather-beaten but Gulliver was thrilled to see it

7 He dragged it as far out of the water as he could and set about repairing it, helped by the eager little Lilliput workers

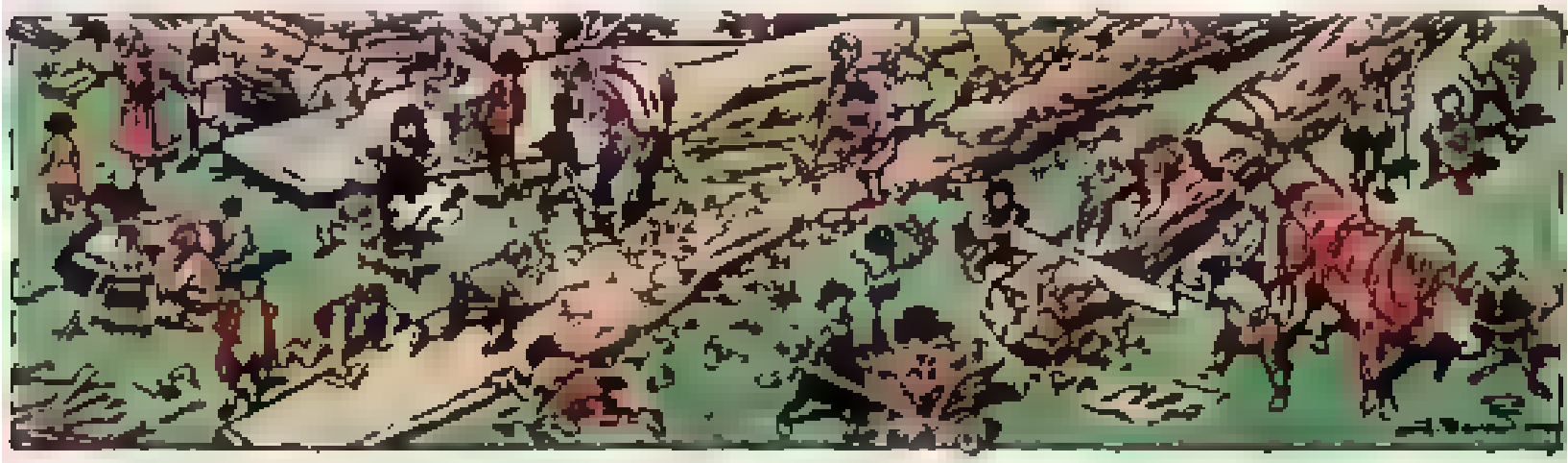
8 Good fortune has thrown this boat into my hands thought Gulliver Now I can return home

Gulliver's Travels

1 The ship's lifeboat that had been cast ashore on the island of Lilliput was a lucky find for Gulliver who, with the help of the little people worked hard to make it seaworthy again. He himself collected thin rope-trunks to use in the strengthening of the damaged boat and when he explained that he needed sails the Lilliputians carefully collected bits of cloth carrying them to a flat piece of ground near the water's edge.

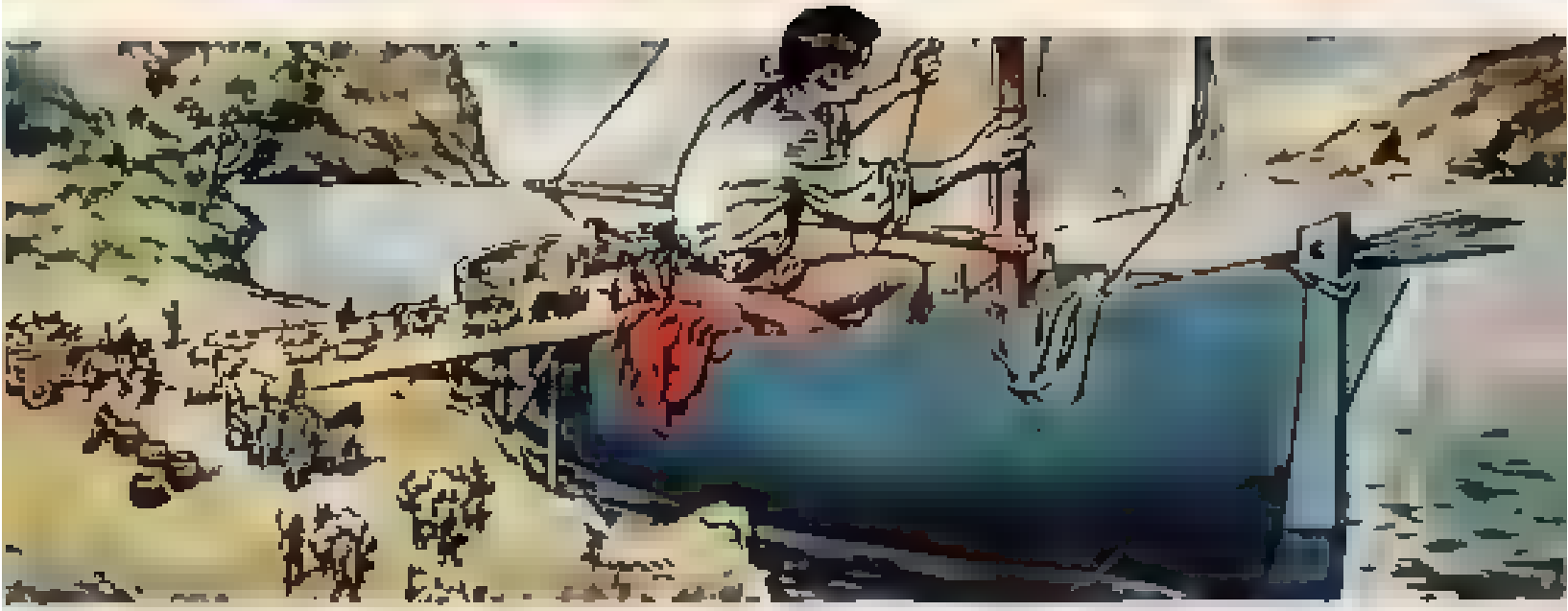
2 Then came the task of spreading the sheets of cloth out and stitching them together. Everybody lent a hand, men and women and children. They sewed and measured and did not even halt for food and drink, which were brought to them at their place of work.

3 At last they had a piece of cloth so big that they marvelled at the size of it. Gulliver himself then took a hand in the making of a mainsail and a foresail, showing them the right shapes to cut and then instructing the little people how they were to be stitched.



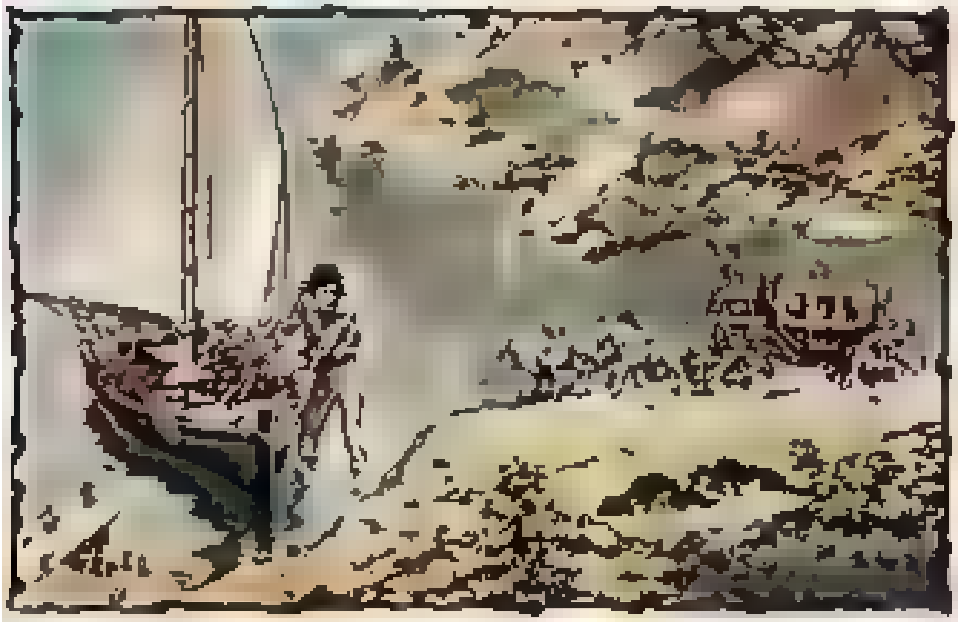
4 And while the sails were being got ready another working party got busy on the task of making oars for the boat. Their tallest trees were cut down and trimmed and shaped, as Gulliver wanted.

5 The air was full of wood-shavings, which were carted away in barrow-loads. Bit by bit the oars took shape, for the happy little people of Lilliput were clever craftsmen, very proud of their work.



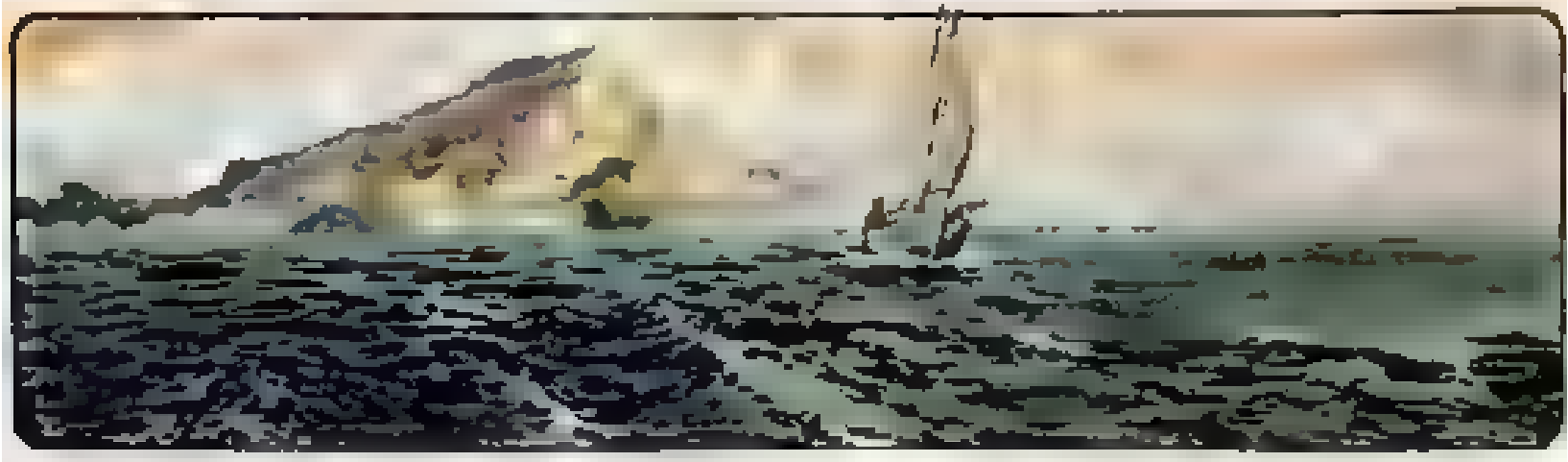
6 Gulliver was proud of them too, when he checked the boat and ran up the sails. "What wonderful people they are," he thought to himself. The ropes ran easily and when the sails slid into position and caught the slight breeze, he was thrilled to feel the boat move slightly as though anxious to get to the open sea.

7 There was no doubt in his mind that the boat was seaworthy. Next came the task of putting supplies on board and a number of cows and sheep were driven across a gangplank. "These will provide food for the long journey," said the Lilliputians, as they also rolled up barrels of drinking water and wine.



8 Gulliver was thrilled and excited. "At last everything is ready and I can start my homeward journey," he said. "There was a time when I thought I would never leave this island, attractive though it is and full of such charming little people. Though I am homesick I shall miss them all very much."

9 And when the royal coach drew up on the cliff top, Gulliver bent down and said goodbye to the King and Queen. "Thank you for all your kindness, gracious Majesties," he said. "I will never forget you."



10 Gulliver pushed the boat away from the shore. The weather was perfect, so he set the sails and sent the craft surging for the open sea, with the shrill goodbyes sounding from Lilliput.

11 Half a mile out Gulliver could still see the island, but the tiny people were invisible to him. "Who in the world will believe me when I tell of my adventures on Lilliput?" he thought.

Gulliver's Travels

1 Gulliver had spent many happy months on the island of Lilliput among the tiny little people and he was a little sad at the thought of leaving them. But he knew, as he ate the food they had given him, that it was for the best.

2 "They were so very kind to me," he murmured to himself, "but there is no doubt that I was a burden to them, for at one meal I ate enough to keep a hundred of them in food for a week. So it is best that I make the effort to return to my own home." He settled down in the boat and went to sleep.

3 The sea was calm and dawn breaks sharp and clear. Gulliver stretched himself and glanced around. Suddenly he saw something that made him jump excitedly to his feet. On the horizon he saw a ship, a proud and splendid merchantman, by the look of her.

4 For a moment Gulliver could hardly believe his eyes. He knew that ships were hardly ever seen in this part of the ocean, but he was determined to attract attention if he could. He raised the boat's sails then stood up and waved until his arm grew tired.

5 "Where is the look-out? Does he not see me?" he groaned. Desperate to be seen he raised his two pistols and fired them.

6 The double-crack of the pistol shots gained a response that gladdened Gulliver's heart. The merchantman put up a flag which showed she was British and then sounded off one of her cannons with a boom like distant thunder. "Ahoy!" shouted Gulliver.

7 Slowly the big ship altered course and turned in the direction of Gulliver's boat. In a few minutes Gulliver was bumping alongside. "Thank you, captain," he called out climbing to the deck, "I'm delighted to come aboard."

8 Captain Forster, master of the merchant-ship, asked Gulliver into his cabin, for he was curious to hear the castaway's own story. And when Gulliver had finished telling him about the land of Lilliput, the captain shook his head. "Who could believe such a tale?" he asked. "It is all impossible."

9 Gulliver was prepared for this, however. "My good captain, I do not blame you for having doubts," he said. "But I am not making the story up. I can assure you." And for proof he opened the canvas bag he had brought with him and, to the astonishment of the captain, put the tiny Lilliput cattle on the table.

10 After that, Captain Forster had not the slightest doubt that Gulliver's story was true. "Such an island may never be discovered again," he said. "I cannot delay my ship any longer but must sail for home."

11 So after many months, Gulliver returned to England, where the story of his amazing travels was told over and over again. People never seemed to tire of it, which was lucky for him.

12 The tiny little cows and sheep brought him great wealth, and everywhere in the country there were huge crowds waiting to see them. But no one saw Lilliput again, not even Gulliver.

Jesús Blasco

THE GOLDEN BOX

Once Upon a Time

13 March 1971 #109 - 17 April 1971 #114

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY No. 109 • 13th March 1971 PRICE 7½p • (1/6)

The Golden Sax

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THE GOLDEN BOX

1. Once upon a time there was a handsome young man by the name of Lorenzo who lived deep in the country with his mother and father. He worked hard and was happy until one day when he began to think about the world outside. "I have heard that there are towns and cities out yonder," he said to himself.

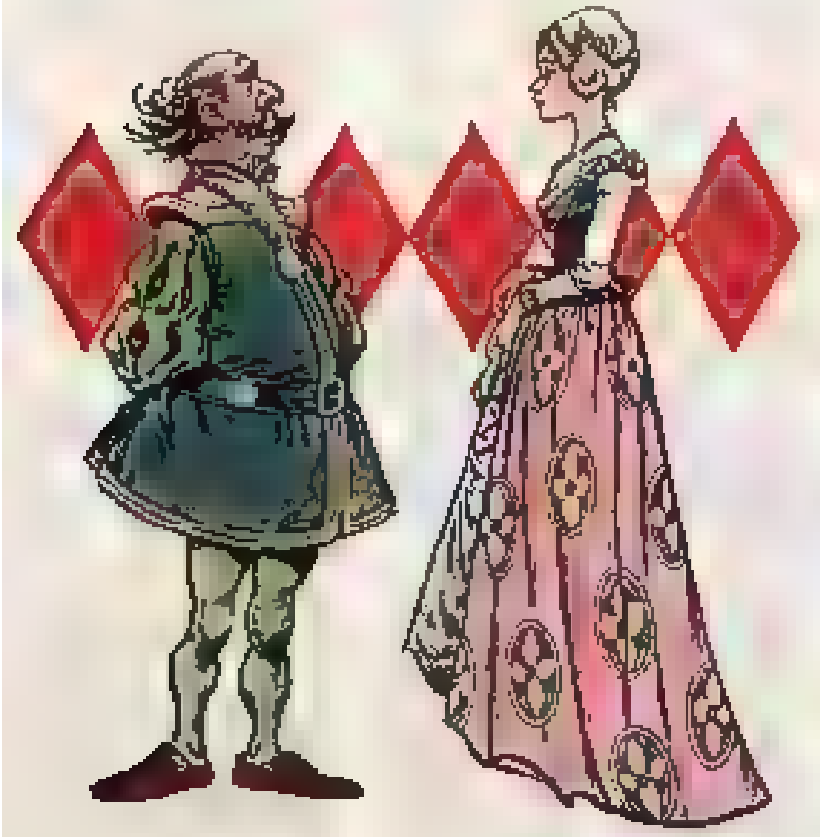
2. The more he thought about it, the more [illegible] he took the idea. So he went to his mother and told her about it. She being a woman of great understanding, did not plead with him to stay. "Go then, my son," she said. "Take these few belongings with you and seek your fortune with my blessing."

3. Passing through the forest, Lorenzo came to where his father was chopping wood. "I am sad to leave you, father," he said. "But I have heard so much about what lies beyond the edge of the forest." "Very well, my son," his father replied. "You have been a great joy to me and have shared nobly in the hard work. Now, I will share my greatest possession with you. Take this golden box but open it only if your life is in danger."

4. Thanking his father and promising to do as he had bidden, Lorenzo set out on his own. Soon he left the forest behind him and wandered into country not known to him. He ate a small meal which his mother had given him, but by nightfall he was hungry again and very tired. Then he saw a great house ahead of him. "I have never seen such a large and splendid place before," he said. "However, what be bold and ask for food and shelter."

5 So Lorenzo knocked at the kitchen door and was greeted by a serving-woman, who invited him in. "Sit you down at that table, young man," she said. "I will bring you food and drink, for I would not like it to be said that there is no welcome for a tired traveller in the home of the Duke of Dravonia."

6 Lorenzo was thankful for her kindness and ate well. But as he finished the meal, the door opened and into the kitchen came the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. "I — am the Duke's daughter, Rosina," she told him. And they stared at each other for many minutes, for they had both fallen deeply in love.

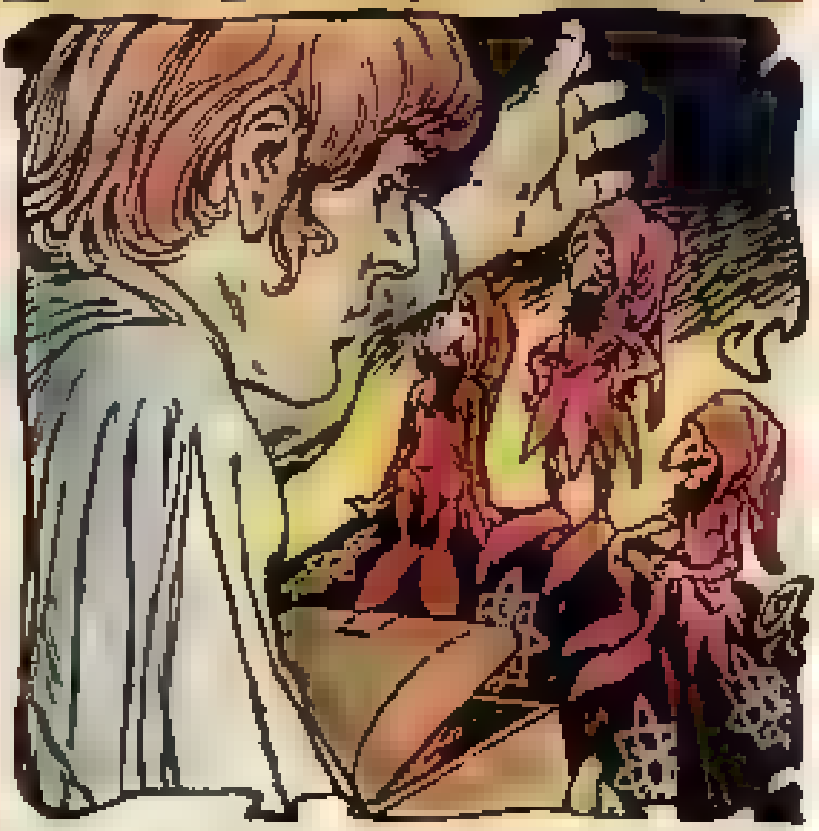


7 Indeed, Rosina was so much in love that she hurried to her father and told him about the handsome young man. But the Duke of Dravonia was well known to be a hard man. "Pumph!" he growled. "I suspect that this fellow is a worthless scoundrel, who hopes to marry you and get a good share of my money. I will set him a task to do and, if he fails, I'll chop off his head."

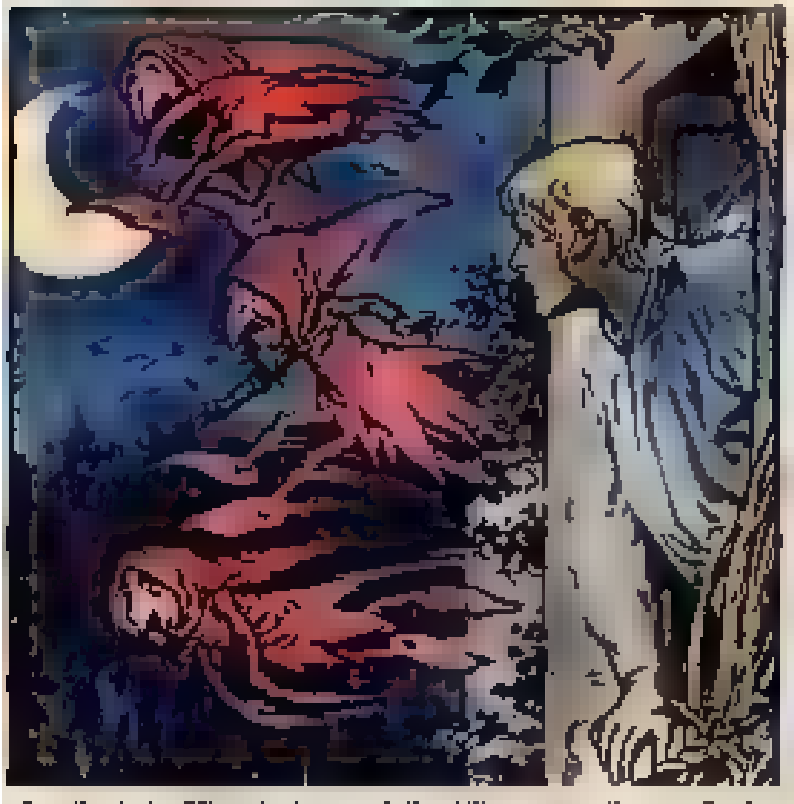
8 He called Lorenzo into the room. "I don't know who you are, young man, but you will have to prove yourself very clever to win my daughter," he said, pointing to a picture on the wall. "By eight o'clock tomorrow morning you must make a large lake outside my palace, deep enough for great ships to sail upon it. If you succeed you win my daughter. Fail, and you lose your head!"

THE GOLDEN BOX

1 When he went to bed, Lorenzo knew that he would never go to sleep. 'At first, when I arrived at this castle and fell in love with the Duke's daughter, Rosina, I was the happiest man in the world,' he said. 'And now I am the most miserable for if I fail to complete the Duke's task by eight tomorrow, I will die.'



2 Suddenly remembering the golden box given to him by his own father, Lorenzo snapped open the lid—and out jumped three tiny men with big, twitching noses. 'We are your servants,' they said. 'What do you want, Lorenzo?' 'Alas, I want too much,' Lorenzo sighed. 'I need a lake with ships on it in a few hours.'



3 'Is that all?' asked one of the little men, with a sniff of scorn. 'It was hardly worth opening the box for such a simple task. However, we do have a few moments to spare, so we will attend to it at once.' And away they whizzed through the window into the moonlight. 'Father did tell me to open the box if my life was in danger,' said Lorenzo. 'I hope it works.'

4 After last he fell asleep, that the night he dreamed of Rosina, the Duke's beautiful daughter, and half the night he dreamed of what might happen to him in the morning. So it was not really surprising that he was nervous and shaking when he walked down on the stroke of eight next morning. 'Dare I open the door and look out?' he asked himself. 'My legs feel like stalks of jelly.'

5. But when he did open the door and walk outside the castle he saw a sight almost too amazing to be believed. There, in front of the castle, just as the Duke had demanded, was now a great lake of shimmering water so deep that a whole fleet of stately navy ships sailed upon it. "How do you like it?" asked the tiny men.

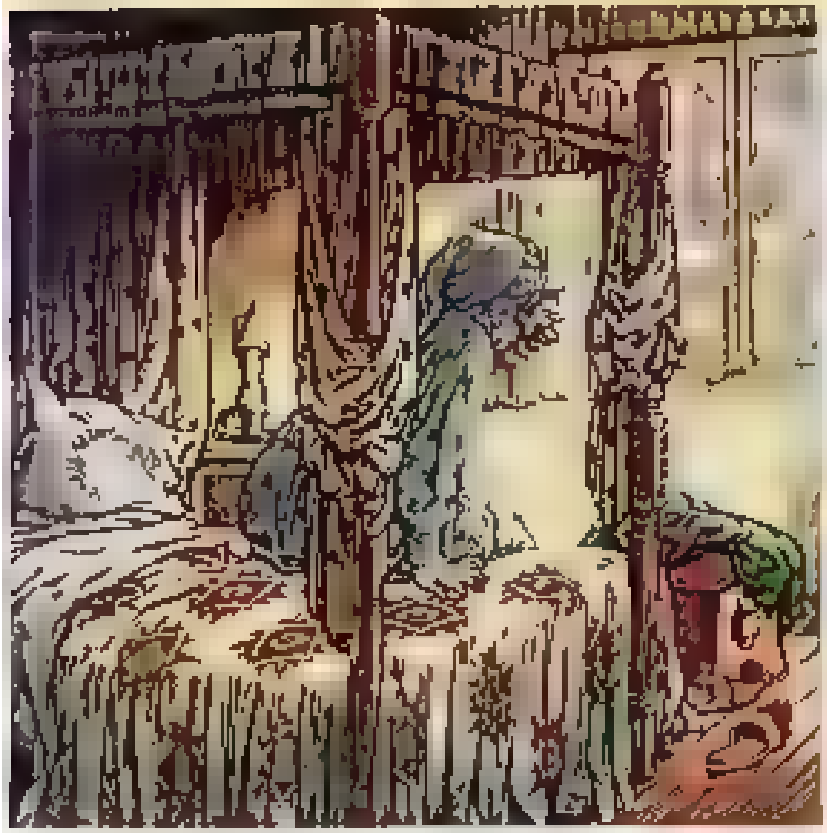
6. "I can scarcely believe it," Lorenzo replied. "Last night it was just a grassy meadow and look at it now—a huge lake with ships proudly sailing on it. This is magic indeed, my little friends." "Oh, it was nothing really," they chuckled. "But now, please put us back in the box so that we can sleep."

7. When Rosina saw what had happened, she clapped her hands with joy. "Oh, how wonderful that Lorenzo did not fail in the task my father set him," she said. "Now he must consent to our marriage."

8. But when the Duke of Bravonia also saw what had happened, he merely frowned and scratched the end of his chin. "Hum!" he said. "Hum!" And still not wishing to let his daughter marry a farmer's boy, he said, "Oh, that was only your FIRST task."

9. The Duke looked at the lake. It was so big that he could hardly see the other side. "What I need is a bridge across it," he declared. "Make me one by eight tomorrow morning, young man, or you will die." "A bridge across all that?" gasped Lorenzo. "But it is not possible!"

THE GOLDEN BOX



1 The Duke of Dravona was a hard man and he did not want his daughter to marry Lorenzo, the farmer's boy, so set him a task which seemed impossible — to build a mighty bridge across a lake of ships which Lorenzo had made appear outside the night before.

2 "The young man is clever, but this time he will fail," chuckled the Duke. "Then I can make sure that my daughter Rosina will never marry him." But when he went to the window and looked out, the smile faded from his face and he gasped.

3 Outside was the great lake with the proud ships sailing on it and, wonder of wonders, there stretched across the water a huge bridge, built so tall that the ships could sail beneath it without their masts touching. "I don't believe it," he said.

4 But it was true enough. Thanks to the little magic men from the golden box, Lorenzo had been able to make the great bridge appear in just a few seconds, and now he hoped that the Duke would keep his promise and let him marry his daughter.

5 And when the little men came flouting in through the window he caught them on the palms of his hands "I can never thank you enough, my friends," he told them. "This is the second time that you have saved my life and I am grateful."

6 Boldly Lorenzo then went to the Duke. "I have carried out your orders, sir," he said. "The bridge is across the lake as you wished and now I humbly ask that you allow me to marry your daughter Rosina, for I am sure that I can make her happy."

7 The Duke, however, was not a man of his word. "Hum—ho—hum!" he spluttered. "I must admit that you have done rather well, but I will agree only if you can produce for me a splendid castle mounted upon pillars of solid gold by the morning."

8 Once again Lorenzo sighed and opened the golden box and let out the three little magic men. "I am afraid I must ask you yet another favour," and "I hope that it will be the last for many a long day, my faithful friends," he said. "Would it be possible for you to carry out the Duke's wish?" "Nothing could be easier," was their reply.

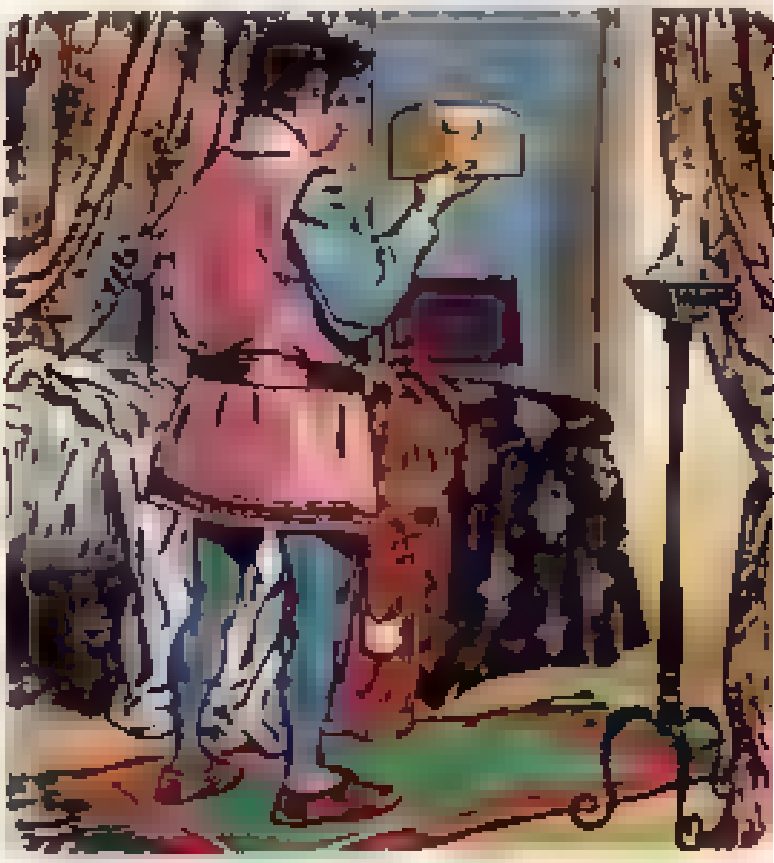
9 Lorenzo smiled as he watched them fly away into the night. Then he himself went to bed and slept peacefully and well. By now he knew that his happy little helpers from within the golden box seemed to be able to do anything asked of them. So early next morning, he was delighted but not too surprised to see a mighty castle in position by the side of the lake. It had towers and flags and stood upon solid gold pillars that gleamed in the sunshine.

THE GOLDEN BOX

1 With the help of the three little magic men in the golden box Lorenzo had conquered the third task set him by the Duke of Brangonia. He had proved a worthy suitor for Rosina, so now the Duke could not refuse to allow the young farmer's boy to marry his daughter Rosina, and the wedding took place.

2 After it was over Lorenzo showed his beautiful bride how he had performed the difficult task. And when he [illegible] little men from out of the golden box, she [illegible] thank you enough, she told them. The magic men blushed, but said, "Oh, say no more. To us it was easy."

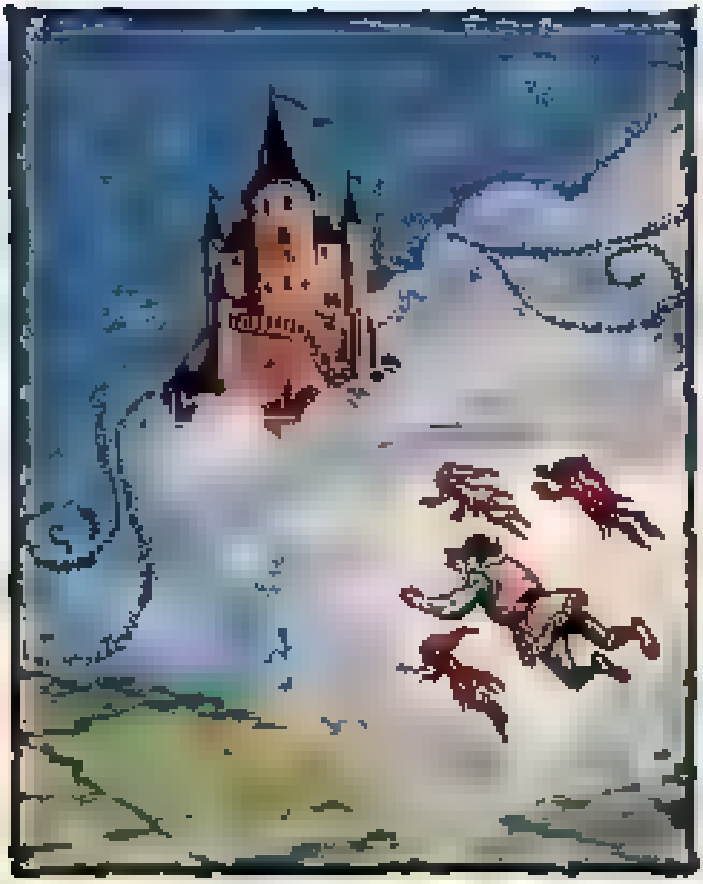
3 In the days that followed, Lorenzo and Rosina were very happy, and even the rather old Duke seemed to enjoy having his farmer's boy as a son-in-law. They liked nothing better than to go out riding together in the forest. "This is truly wonderful for me," said Lorenzo. "Nothing can go wrong."



4 But had Lorenzo been at his room at the castle he might have thought differently. For at that moment one of the men servants was in the room tidying up, and he came upon the golden casket. "What might this be?" he thought to himself. "I have never seen the like of it before. What can be inside?"

5. Greedy and curious, he lifted the lid, and then got the surprise of his life. For instead of finding a few gold coins inside the box, he discovered the three little magic men. "What do you wish of us?" asked one of them. "We are the servants of whoever opens the box. Tell us your need and we will supply it."

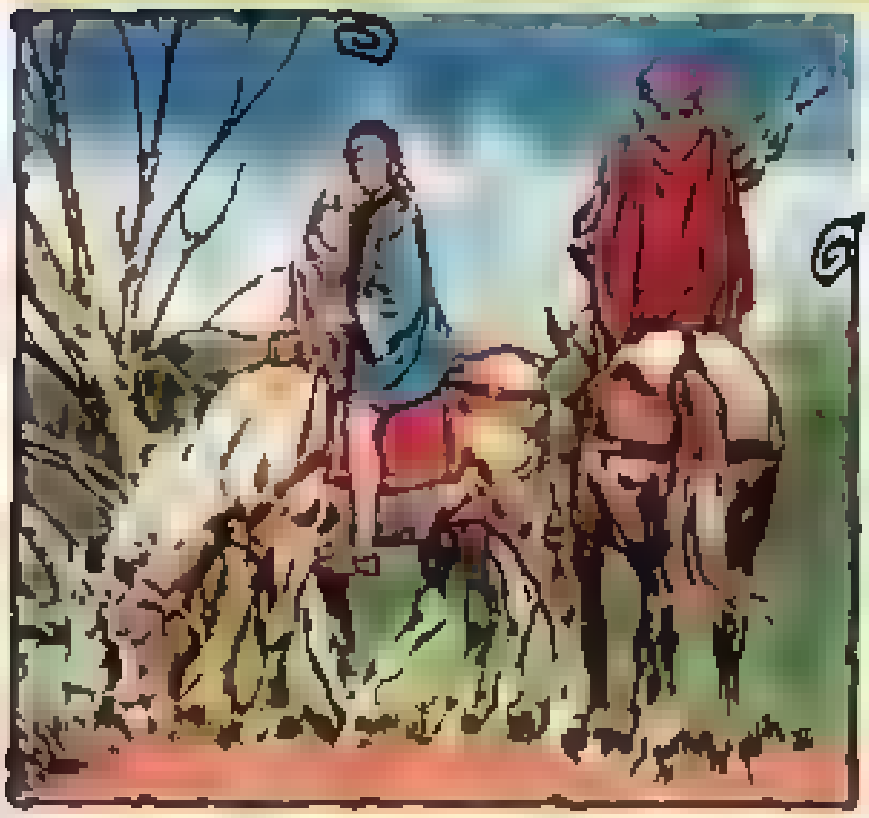
6. For a moment or two the servant just stared at them in great wonder. Then began to think that this perhaps was the moment he had been longing for. "If you can perform any task, then I command you to take this palace away from this spot and place it in another part of the country," he told the tiny magic men.



7. "That is easily done, O master," they chuckled. One of them snapped his fingers, another pointed into the distance, and the third said, "Fly, great palace, through the air—our master wants you over there." And with a whoosh the great palace flew away.

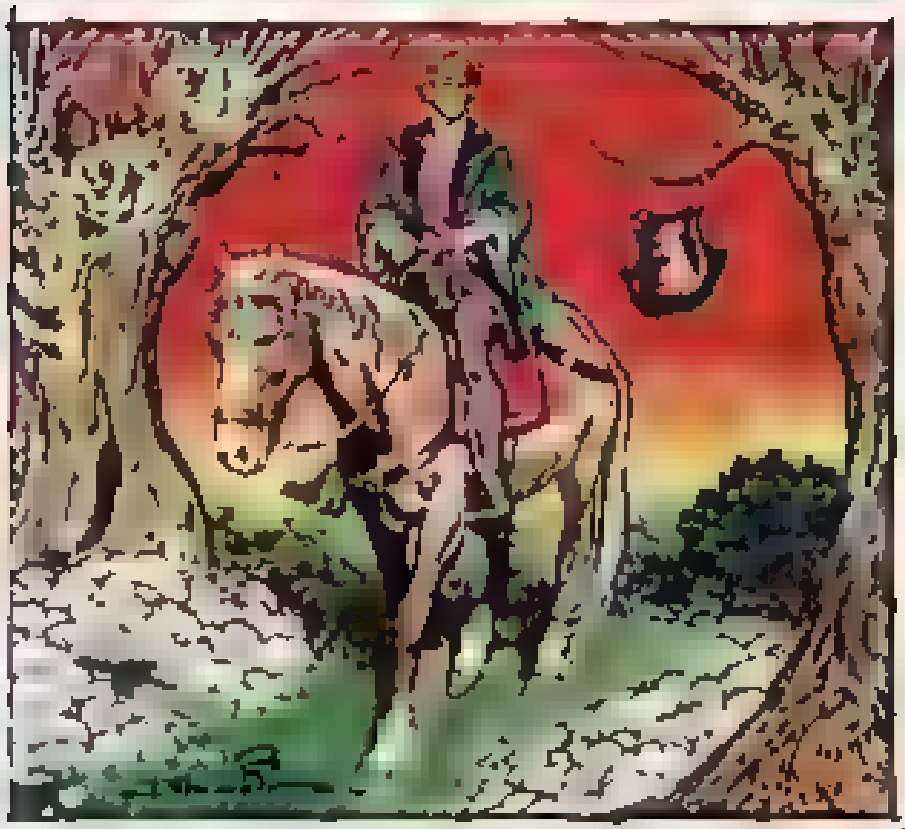
8. Tired but happy, Lorenzo, Rosina and the Duke presently made their way back home—and you can imagine their surprise when they came to the spot where the great palace should have been. "It's—it's gone!" stammered the Duke. "It has vanished into thin air. What sort of trickery is this?" Lorenzo gasped and thought, "Why have my little magic friends done this to me?"

THE GOLDEN BOX



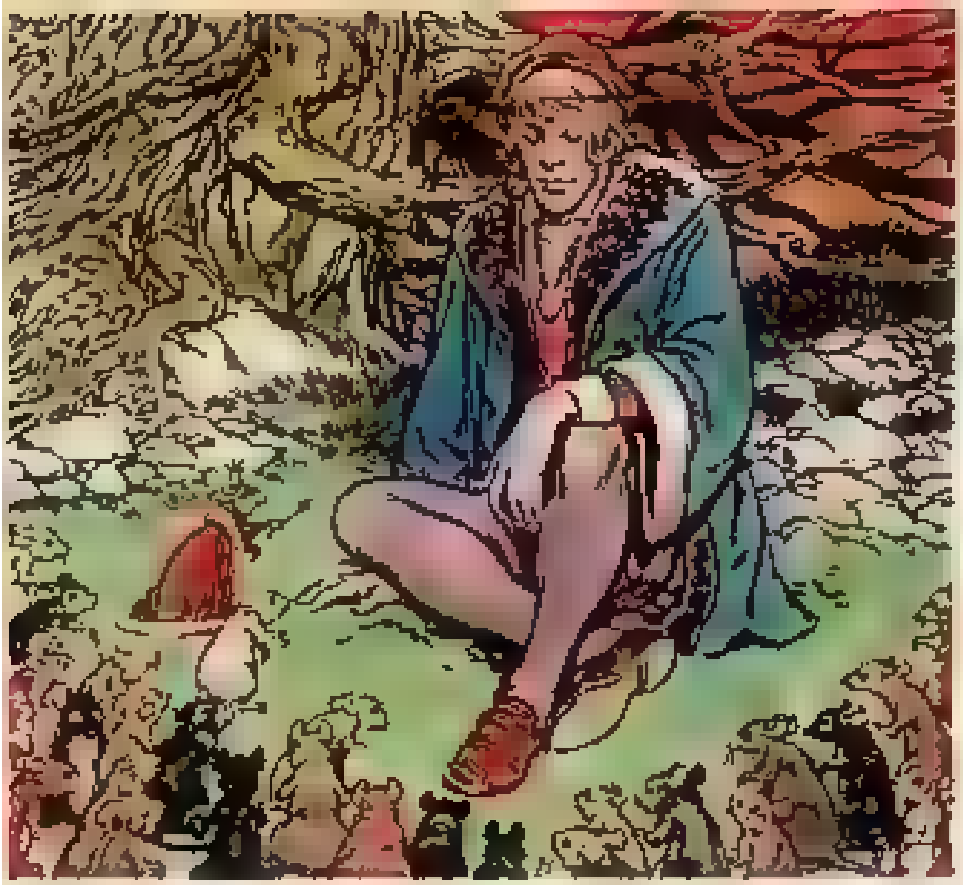
1 When Lorenzo flogging his wife and the Duke of Grandola returned from their horse ride they were shocked to find that the splendid castle had disappeared. The Duke turned angrily on Lorenzo. By some clever trickery you produced the castle for me and in return allowed you to marry my daughter he said. Now I order you to find my castle

2 As he rode away Lorenzo thought hard guess what has happened he said to himself. Somebody one of the servants perhaps found the golden box in my room and opened it letting out the three little magic men. And in response to his wish they have transported the castle away



3 Without the golden box Lorenzo felt lost. He no longer had any powers of magic to help him and he wandered on through the forests bewildered and unhappy. Where can get help in my search for the lost castle? he wondered. If do not find it then I shall also lose my lovely wife. After a while he came to a strange place the Kingdom of Mice

4 Furious Lorenzo went straight into the Kingdom of Mice and upon a tree branch he saw a tiny mouse figure wearing a crown. I am the Mouse King he said to Lorenzo can see from your sad eyes that you are very unhappy. Pray tell me what troubles you friend



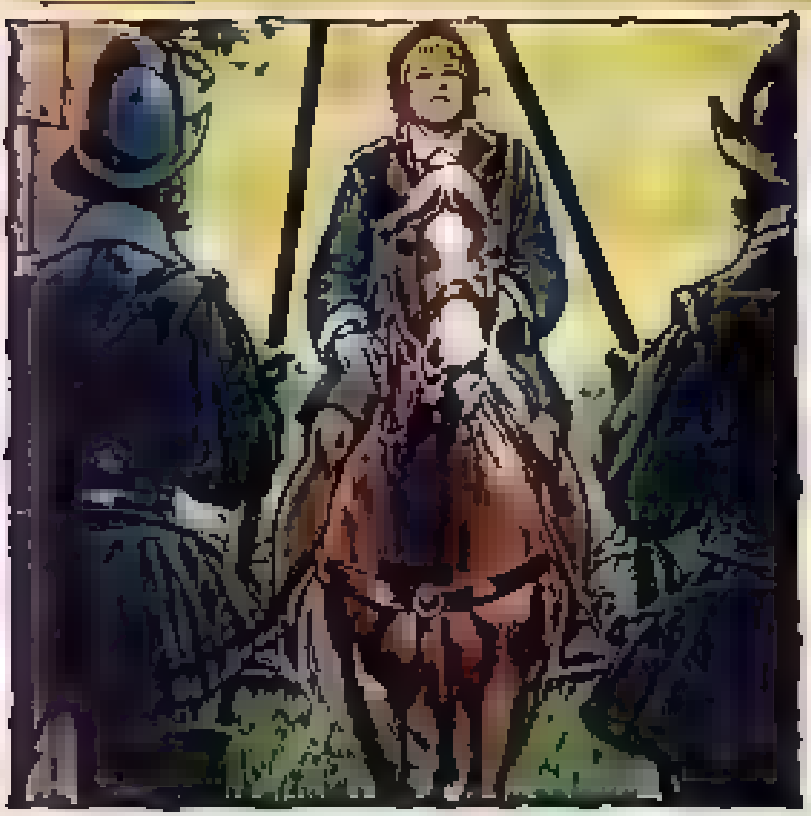
5 Lorenzo told the Mouse King about the vanished castle and the golden box. "I doubt if Your Mouse Majesty can help me," he said. But the Royal Mouse was only too willing to try. He called in all his subjects, who assembled in a squeaking circle. When they were asked if any of them had seen the lost castle, one of the mice stepped forward. "Yes, I have," it said. "I know where it is."

6 The little mouse offered to guide Lorenzo to the castle, so the farm-boy lost no time in getting into the saddle. "Don't worry about me, good sir," squeaked the mouse. "I can ride very well at the back, behind you." It climbed up the horse's tail.

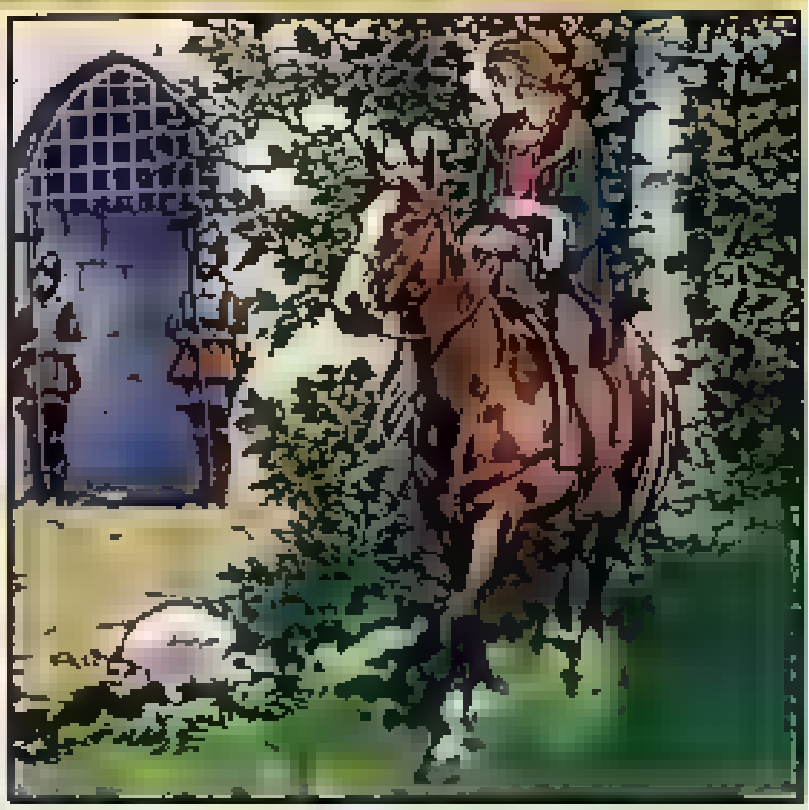
7 So they set off together on their long journey. Lorenzo did not know where he was going, but followed directions from the tiny mouse guide. "Take the path to the left here," the mouse told him. "Two miles along, go to the right." They travelled for many, many miles through quiet and strange forests, thick with trees.

8 At last the mouse hopped in front of Lorenzo and pointed to the shape of a great castle tower rising through the mist of the forest. "There it is, my friend," it said. Lorenzo felt his heart jump for joy. "I have found the castle," he said. "But how do I get the golden box to speed it back?"

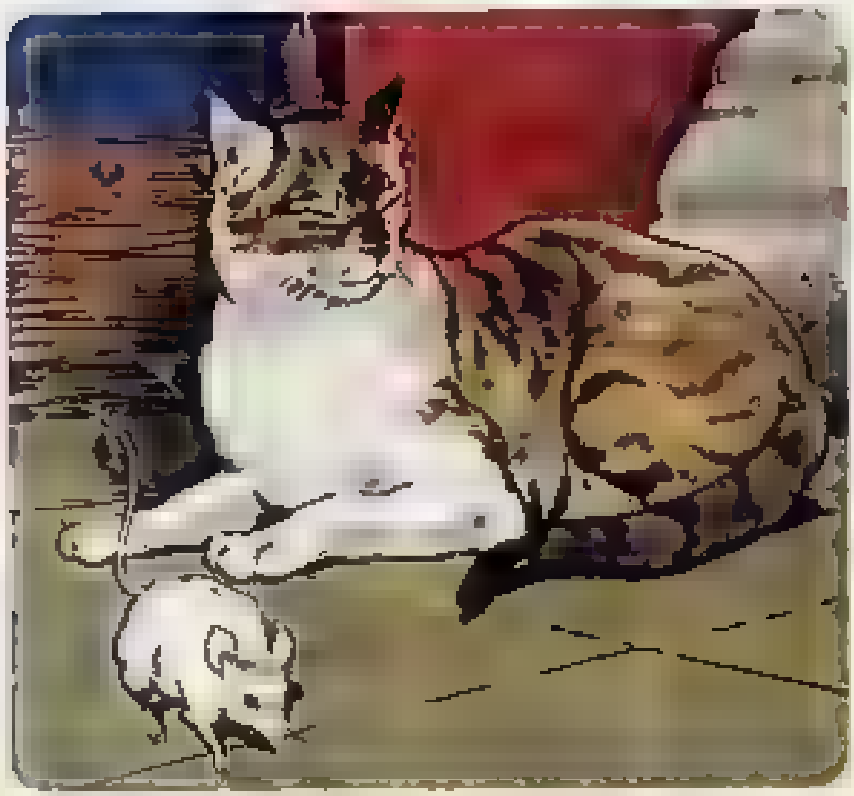
THE GOLDEN BOX



1 Thanks to a tiny sharp-eyed mouse from the kingdom of Mice Lorenzo had at last found the castle he had been seeking. It had been carried away by magic by the three little wizards in the golden box stolen by a greedy servant. Boldly Lorenzo rode towards the castle gateway but was halted by two guards. "No one passes by command of the owner our master" they said



2 So Lorenzo had to obey and move away wondering what next he should do. His problem was solved when the mouse slipped from the horse's back and, almost invisibly moved towards the guards. "Do not worry," it said in a tiny squeaky voice. "I am small enough to slip past them without being seen and if the golden box is within the castle I will find it for you."



3 Having wriggled his way past the soldiers the brave little mouse entered the castle to search for the golden box. But almost at once it came upon its most hated enemy—a cat. For a moment the mouse hesitated in fear but then saw that the cat was quietly sleeping, so screwed up its courage and crept by

4 Taking care not to be seen the brave little mouse moved silently through the castle and in an upstairs room came upon the golden box. Now came the problem of getting it out but by pushing it with all its might the mouse managed to get it to the outside of the castle

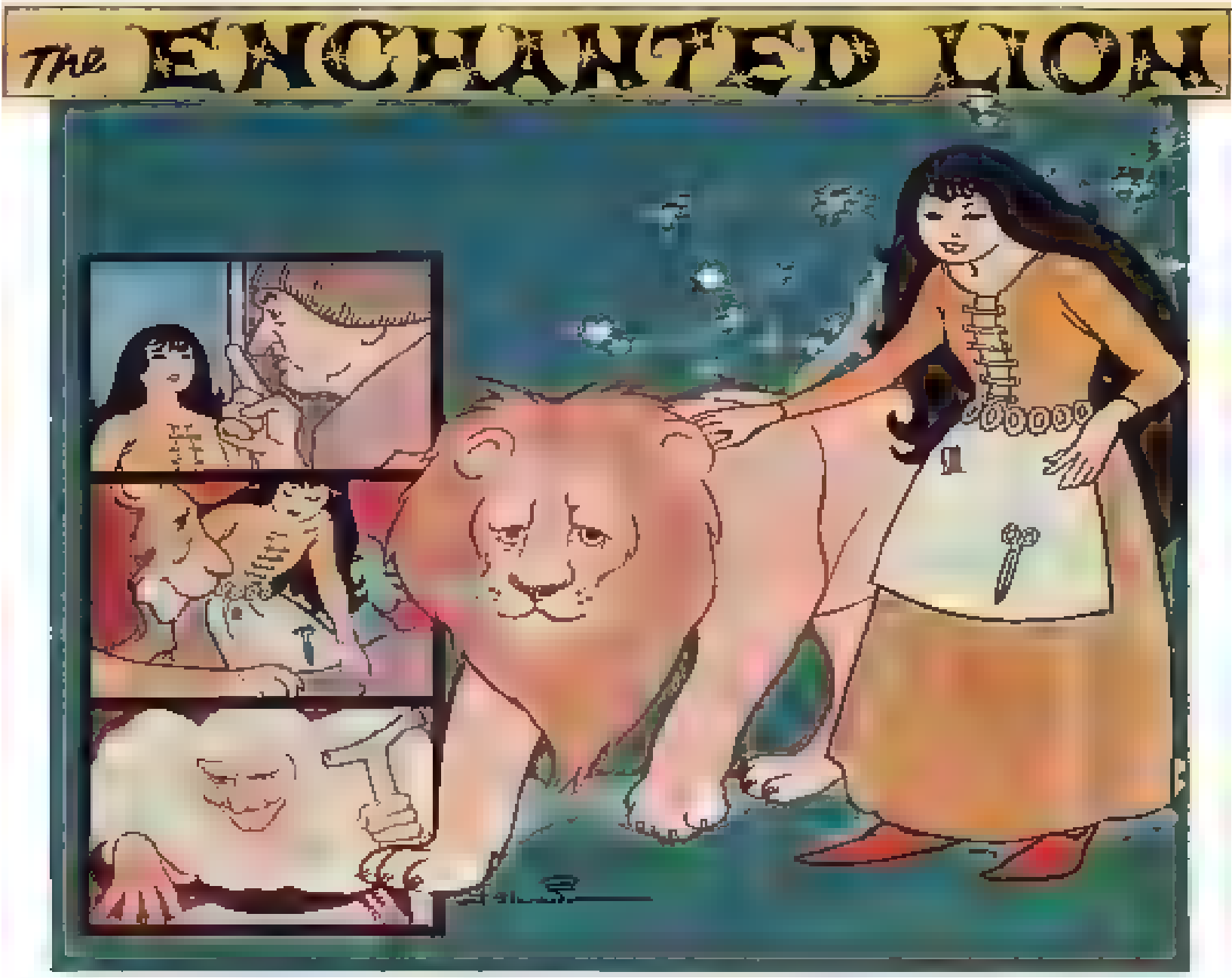
5 Lorenzo was overjoyed to see the golden box again. "Now I have the power to put things as they were." he said. He opened the box and out popped the three little magic men. "At your service good sir," they said. "What is your command?" "Take this castle back to the place where it once stood," ordered Lorenzo. "My future happiness depends on it, so please do not fail me, little men. I beg of you."

6 In a flash it was done. The magic men snapped their fingers and the great castle rose from the ground and soared away into the sky. The greedy servant watched it go, shaking his fists in rage. But it served him right, for he had stolen the golden box.

7 In a rush of wind, which sounded like a tornado, the stranded castle came swooping down and landed on its gleaming gold plinth in the exact spot from which it had been taken. And you can well imagine the joy of Rosella. Lorenzo's wife, when she saw it. "My dear husband has brought it back, so all is well," she smiled.

8 So Lorenzo and Rosella were together again and the Duke of Lindonia was happy to get his castle back. It was all because of the little moustachioed men and they all raised their thanks to it as it returned to the Kingdom of Mice. And even the magic men from the golden box were glad to be with Lorenzo again.

Jesús Blasco



Once Upon a Time

The Enchanted Lion

24 April 1971 #115 - 15 May 1971 #118

The Water of Life

04 September 1971 #134

The Brave Young Shepherd

25 September 1971 #137

The Water-of-Life

1. Long ago, three brothers and a sister lived in a palace with a beautiful garden. Many people came to see the garden, and among them was a kindly old man. He said, "It is very beautiful, but you still need three things—a pitcher of the water of life, a branch of the tree of beauty, and a talking bird." And he presented Emma, the sister, with a knife that shone easily in the evening sunlight.

2. "If ever that becomes dull, it means that danger threatens," he explained. "The things you need are in a beautiful garden on the mountainside." He bade them farewell, and shortly afterwards the eldest brother set forth. He was still some way from the mountain, when he met a giant, who asked him where he was going. He explained, and the giant warned him.

3. He said, "Many people have come this way, seeking what you seek, but they have not returned. When you reach the mountain, you will see many stones. As you walk past them, they will set up a clamour, but you must not look round at them. Walk straight on, and when you reach the garden, take what you want." The eldest brother thanked him, and went on his way, and after some time, arrived at the mountain. There he saw the stones, and they had faces like people.

4. As he went up the mountain, he passed quite close to the stones. The clamour they made was very great, and he forgot the giant's warning. He was curious, and looked round—and immediately turned into a stone himself. When he did not return home, his two brothers and Emma wondered what had happened. They looked at the knife, and found it had turned very dull. It was a warning. Great danger was threatening them!

5. While Emma was still looking at the knife the second brother decided that he must go and search for the three things they needed for their garden. But he did not return, either, and so the third brother set out. He also failed to come back, and so Emma decided that she herself should go to look for the water of life, the tree of beauty and the talking bird.

6. She set forth in fear and trembling and met the giant, who warned her about the stones on the mountainside. As she went past the stones, she even heard her brothers' voices coming from them, but she did not turn round and look at them. At last she reached the beautiful garden, took her pitcher, and filled it from the fountain of the water of life. She had succeeded where her brothers had failed!

7. Emma then broke off a branch of the tree of beauty, and put the talking bird into a cage she had brought with her. On the way back, she spilled some of the water on to the stones, and to her delight they turned back into her brothers. Others turned back into the many boys and girls who had tried to reach the garden and failed.

8. All the boys and girls danced and sang with joy and then thanked Emma for what she had done for them. The three brothers were tremendously proud of their sister. Then they led a gay procession down the mountainside and waved to the giant as they passed him. He waved back, delighted to see them all alive again. All the parents were delighted to see their children again, and there was great rejoicing. And Emma and her brothers' garden became even more popular with its water of life, its branch from the tree of beauty, and its talking bird.

The Brave Young Shepherd

1. Once upon a time, King Argus of Nuralia decided to make a new law. It was that whenever he sneezed, all his subjects had to say "To your good health, Your Majesty." "Go and tell my people of this new rule," he said to his Prime Minister. And so the poor man, who knew better than to argue with the King once his mind was made up, went to spread the news.

2. Everyone obeyed the new law, except for a young shepherd boy called Alan. Because he refused to say "To your good health, Your Majesty," he was taken before the King who commanded him to say it. But the shepherd boy said, "I will not say those words until you give me your daughter's hand in marriage." "Throw him into the bear pit," roared the King, very angry at Alan's words.

3. But imagine the King's surprise when he went to the bear pit the next morning and found Alan sitting on an overturned bucket, talking to the bear. The beast was not at all its usual fierce self, but sat listening with a mild interested expression on its face. "Now, you will say the words," shouted the King. But Alan answered calmly, "Not unless you give me the hand of your daughter in marriage."

4. At his words, the King was even more annoyed than before. "To the wolves with him!" he roared. And so Alan was put in a pen with a pack of hungry wolves. But before they could attack him, he took from his pocket a tin whistle and started to play it. The sound was so sweet that the wolves got up on their hind legs and began to dance. They were so occupied with the dance that they did not attack Alan. "Throw him over a high cliff," shouted the angry King.

5. So poor Alan was taken by a group of soldiers to the edge of a very high cliff. Looking down, he knew that if he was pushed he would be killed. Luckily he was a quick-thinking lad and he knew that the only way of saving himself lay in trying to distract the soldiers' attention. "Look," he cried, pointing beyond them, "there is a lion devouring its prey." Startled, the guards looked away, and while they did so, the shepherd boy tore off his outer clothing.

6. Quick as a flash, he threw the clothes over the edge of the cliff and then hid behind a nearby bush. When the soldiers saw his clothes lying on the rocks they thought that the shepherd boy had jumped. "We must go and tell the King," they cried. "He will be pleased with us."

7. But Alan was ahead of them. Quickly recovering his clothes, he ran back to the palace as fast as he could and burst into the King's private apartment—just in time to hear the King saying, "I would have given him a palace and great wealth if he had said the words, 'To your good health, Your Majesty'." "I still won't, until I have the hand of your daughter in marriage," cried Alan. The King and the Princess could hardly believe their eyes.

8. The King was so taken aback that he gave in and told Alan that he could marry his daughter, Melita. "You are a brave man," he smiled, "and I think you will make my daughter happy." At his words, Alan dropped to his knees and then raising his glass, he said, "To your very good health, Your Majesty." Because the young man had at last said the right words, great wealth and a palace were his and he and the Princess lived happily ever after.